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THE TIMES

No. 65,406 TUESDAY OCTOBER 24 1995

Thousands of groups disappointed Charities seek bigger slice of lottery cake

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHARITIES yesterday de-
manded a greater share of
National Lottery proceeds in a
move that would mean less
cash for the arts, sport, heri-
tage and millennium projects.
The demands came as the
National Lottery Charities
Board awarded grants of
more than £40 million to 627
groups, but conceded that up
to 12,000 of the 15,000 organ-
isations seeking money were
likely to be disappointed.

Virginia Bottomley, the
Heritage Secretary, was last
night under mounting pres-
sure to order a fundamental
review of the way lottery cash
is distributed amid fears that
thousands of charitable
groups are missing out as
individual donations dwindle.

Stuart Etherington of the
National Council for Volun-
tary Organisations, called for
charities to receive 8p out of
every £1 spent on lottery
tickets, instead of the current
5.6p — a change that could
bring them another £80 to
£100 million a year.

"The board has shown that
it is able to distribute funds
fairly across a wide range of
charities throughout the coun-
try. The problem is that they
do not have enough money.
We hope that they will now
alter the distribution between
the five causes," Mr Ether-
ington said.

He added that while yester-
day's grants — to a range of
causes from the Scouts to
immigrant welfare organ-
isations — represented a sig-
nificant achievement, the



Full list of charities
receiving national
lottery awards
page 43

bodies have had a relatively
light task and the Millennium
Commission has even had to
court further applications
from the North East and
Northern Ireland. It is also
actively seeking more applica-
tions from ethnic minorities.

"It is not for us to decide on
the proportion of money that
goes to charities, that's for
the Government," Mr Sief said,
but he added: "Of course, if we
had a bit more money we
would know how to spend it."

Dr Jack Cunningham, the
Shadow Heritage Secretary, is
to raise the issue in the
Commons debate on the lot-
tery tomorrow. He said he was
also setting up a group to
advise Labour on how best to
distribute the money. One
possibility was to make the
operation non-profit-making.

Mrs Bottomley will, how-
ever, resist demands for a greater
proportion of lottery money to
be spent on charities, al-
though she is to introduce a
series of minor changes to the
way the distributing bodies
operate. At present each re-
ceives 5.6 per cent of lottery
proceeds, although this will
change in 2001 when the
Millennium Commission
ceases to exist. Almost half the
takings go on prizes and 5 per
cent is kept by the promoters,
Camelot. A similar amount
goes to retailers and the Treas-
ury takes 12 per cent.

Grant defended, page 5
Libby Purves, page 18
Leading article,
and letters, page 19

Faldos end marriage

The former golden couple
of British golf, Nick
Faldos, confirmed
that their marriage is over.
Faldos's name has been
linked with Brenda Cepe-
lak, 20, who is on a golf
scholarship at the Univer-
sity of Arizona. **Page 3**

Slower growth boosts case for rates cut

By COLIN NARRROUGH

ECONOMIC growth slowed
to an annual 2.4 per cent in the
third quarter of 1995, its
weakest for two years, and
looks likely to slow further
in the coming months.

However, it was the four-
teenth successive quarterly in-
crease in economic growth
measured by gross domestic
product which is now 9.5 per
cent higher than at the low
point of the last recession.

This is the last quarterly
figure available to Kenneth
Clarke, the Chancellor, before
his Budget on November 28
and is expected to reinforce the
case for lower interest rates.

Although City analysts
largely welcomed the 0.5 per
cent rise as "sustainable"
growth, the deceleration in
year on year growth from 2.8
per cent in the second quarter,

Growth slows, page 25

Sailors want to keep ban on gays

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL NAVY survey has
revealed that 90 per cent of
personnel want to continue
the ban on homosexuals.
The three Armed Forces are
expected to support the ban
when the Ministry of De-
fence has finished the pro-
cess of asking all ranks for
their views, expected by the
end of the year.

Service chiefs are already
aware of strong opposition
to lifting the ban. Question-
naires have been sent to all
units and a full report is not
due until next January.

The survey of views from
all ranks was announced in
August, after a High Court
case in which a judge said
he did not believe the ban
could survive much longer.

Four ex-Servicemen
who were dismissed for
being homosexual lost their
case at the High Court
earlier this year, despite the
judge's comment. They went
to the Court of Appeal two
weeks ago, and a ruling is
expected soon.

Neither Michael Portillo,
the Defence Secretary, nor
his advisers would want to
lift the ban unless there was
strong support from within
the Services.

Clinton and Yeltsin agree to seek total ban on nuclear tests

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
AT HYDE PARK, NEW YORK

PRESIDENT CLINTON said
last night that America and
Russia had agreed to seek a
total ban on nuclear weapons
tests. At a joint news confer-
ence after a summit with
President Yeltsin, Mr Clinton
said: "This is a major, major
step and it dramatically in-
creases the chances of our
success for a sweeping, com-
prehensive test-ban treaty."

Mr Clinton added that he
and Mr Yeltsin had reached
"complete agreement" on
working together for peace in
Bosnia. He added, however,
that details remained to be
worked out. US Administra-
tion sources said the two had
ended 95 minutes of pre-lunch
talks at Franklin Roosevelt's
magnificent old estate on the

Hudson River with a clearer
understanding of each other's
position. The two talked at
length about how they could
ensure the success of the peace
talks between the presidents of
Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia
which begin in Dayton, Ohio,
a week today. With a settle-
ment possible in weeks, re-
solving the impasse over
Russia's role in the peace force
had become urgent. The dis-
pute was also fuelling Russia's
already fierce opposition to the
eastward expansion of Nato.

It was earlier understood
that Mr Yeltsin wanted to
contribute a full division to the
implementation force but
would not put Russian troops
under Nato command. The
Administration was ready to
welcome Russian participa-
tion, believing it would help
keep the Bosnian Serbs in line

and pave the way for a new
post-Cold War relationship
between Russia and Nato, but
officials had insisted that Nato
must have sole command.

Learning from bitter experi-
ence, America was not ready
to accept any "dual key"
command arrangement. Nor
would it give the Russians sole
responsibility for policing the
Serb sector of Bosnia, fearing
that the country would end up
divided into spheres of influ-
ence like Berlin after the
Second World War. Moscow,
on the other hand was not
prepared to accept an Ameri-
can proposal that Russian
troops should perform only
support functions outside the
command structure, such as
mine clearing and bridge
rebuilding.

For the benefit of photogra-
phers the two men had earlier

sat on the wooden chairs
overlooking the Hudson that
Roosevelt and Churchill had
used during their three war-
time meetings. Mr Yeltsin,
clearly impressed by his sur-
roundings, remarked: "We are
here planning peace, not war
... I'm sure in a place like this
there are no problems we
won't be able to resolve."

The presidents then ad-
joined for their serious talks
to the mansion's library
which, down to the leather-
bound issues of *Punch* maga-
zine and ten volumes of *History of England*, has been kept al-
most exactly as it was when
Roosevelt died in April 1945. It
was here that he broadcast
several of his "fireside chats"
and read *A Christmas Carol*
to his children.

UN anniversary, pages 14, 15

Darcy hidden from adoring fans

By JOHN YOUNG

THE striking portrait of
Fitzwilliam Darcy, the hero of
the BBC television adaptation
of Jane Austen's *Pride and
Prejudice*, is unlikely to be
seen again in public.

The picture was featured in
last week's episode on a wall
of the Darcy family seat and
viewers who have swooned
over actor Colin Firth's good
looks and enigmatic perfor-

mance might have hoped that
they could get a better look
at it or even acquire it. But it is
out of their reach.

The portrait now in the
possession of Sue Birtwhistle
the producer of the series.
Pictures commissioned for
costume dramas are generally
given, once they are no longer
needed, to the subject or to the
programme producer.

The artist, Peter Nurse,
painted the portraits of Darcy

and his sister Georgina from
photographs of Firth and the
actress, Amelia Fox, dressed
for their respective roles.

Ms Birtwhistle was said by
her agent last night to be
abroad, but it appears that the
picture will not be available
for purchase. "I expect a lot of
people would like the chance
to make a bid for it," a BBC
spokeswoman said. "But I am
afraid they are going to be
disappointed."



The portrait of actor
Colin Firth as Darcy

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Carlile's burning oratory proves hard to swallow

THE irony of yesterday's Commons exchanges on the dangers of oral contraception was that the male MPs seemed to be more clued up on the subject than the women. It was the Tory men who seemed to be taking the liveliest interest in the avoidance of unwanted pregnancies... but then a number of them have to.

Mind you, Liberal Democrat spokesman Alex Carlile did become, in his excitement, a little confused. Could the Health Secretary advise us, he squeaked, "on the high risk of taking oral contraceptives and smoking at the same

time?" MPs looked baffled. Are these pills inflammable? A 1 in 3,000 risk of thrombosis dwindles by comparison with the certainty of third-degree burns to the throat.

If Mr Carlile is right, Stephen Dorrell can hardly be blamed for acting fast. There could have been a rash of oral blazes across the country last weekend, unquenchable mouth fires breaking out from Land's End to John o'Groats.

Indeed the sense of controlled hysteria with which MPs approached their responsibilities in this affair yesterday suggested a Britain



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

very different from the one many of us thought we knew. Millions of women were panicking in the streets. What was to have been a nationwide orgy of autumn love-making on Thursday night had been abandoned at the last minute in confusion and despair.

The Government's response had been "lamentable" (Glenda Jackson, Lab, Hampstead), "a woeful fail-

ure" (Opposition spokesman Harriet Harman, Lab, Peckham; "half a million women" had been "frightened out of their lives" (Cwyneth Dunwoody, Lab, Crewe & Nantwich).

Readers who in recent days may have dined in Hampstead or passed Crewe without noticing the general alarm, now know that beneath any eerie sense of calm they may have observed, lies a

reign of suppressed terror. "Oh Mr Porter, what shall I do? I wanted to go to Birmingham but they've taken me on to Crewe!" assumes a new horror.

The jilting cad of whom prosecuting counsel sings in *Trials By Jury*: "Picture them each honeyed hour! Spent with this unmanly male! Camberwell became a bow-er! Peckham an Arcadian vale!" had better avoid Peckham, next time. Ms Harman's terrified constituents there have gone off sex for good.

All this provoked Tory Toby Jesse (Twickenham)

into the day's most preposterous remark: as pregnancy is not an illness, he bellowed, "why should the prevention of a baby be regarded as a health measure?" He wanted oral contraceptives taken off the NHS. Watch out, Twickenham.

But I am afraid we are all going to have to get used to a constant state of high theatricality at the Commons for the next 18 months. Tony Blair set the tone last week when he tried to turn what might have been an amusing chance to poke fun at Michael Howard, into a sort of medieval morality play in which the forces of

light confront the vortex of all evil. Failing to make this stick, Jack Straw took the rap: but he had been handed a silly brief. Yesterday, Harriet Harman sounded equally ludicrous. The Opposition might consider whether a continuous moral top-security alert is maintainable until 1997, or whether we might not grow cynical.

Earlier, in Points of Order, Wimbledon's Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes had urged MPs to abandon displays which were "archaic, quaint, and inexplicable to the general public". Like Dr Goodson-Wickes.

Drug firms try to halt price cut by Asda

Four of the world's biggest healthcare companies are threatening concerted legal action against Asda, the supermarket group, over its attempts to end price-fixing arrangements for non-prescription medicines (Patricia Tehan writes).

Procter & Gamble, Smith-Kline Beecham, Warner Wellcome and Reckitt & Coleman have sent identical solicitors letters to Asda, threatening an injunction if it attempts to discount any of their products.

In response, Denise Jagger, Asda's company secretary and corporate counsel, wrote to the four yesterday saying the group had "not taken steps nor demonstrated any intention whatsoever to discount your products".

Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, has been an outspoken critic of the Resale Price Maintenance Act, which protects the price of non-prescription medicines. The Office of Fair Trading is investigating the £1.1 billion over-the-counter drugs market. Asda's discounting of books helped to end the net book agreement. The supermarket has also cut the prices of 82 branded vitamins, minerals and supplements.

Mother freed

A woman who allegedly confessed to suffocating her three babies was freed by a judge after the prosecution dropped murder charges because it did not know whether to believe her. The Old Bailey was told that admissions by Dagmar Thorne, 40, who had been in a mental hospital since her arrest, could not be relied upon as true and she may have been seeking attention.

Science honour

The Queen has appointed Sir Aaron Klug to be a member of the Order of Merit, one of the highest orders in her personal gift. Sir Aaron, 79, director of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1982. He was knighted in 1988. Other members include Baroness Thatcher and the composer Sir Michael Tippett.

Legal aid limits

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, said that he had not yet made any decision over whether to impose cash limits on criminal legal aid as part of his proposed reforms of the £1.4 billion-a-year legal aid scheme. Lord Mackay issued a statement in response to a report in *The Times* that he is to drop proposals to limit criminal, but not civil, legal aid.

BR cuts summer

British Rail is to operate its summer timetable, when traditionally more trains are run, for only 16 weeks next year compared with the present 21 weeks. The RMT rail union condemned the move but BR said it was designed to bring timetables into line with continental practice. The shorter season will run from June 2 to September 21.

City sale 'mad'

A plan by Liverpool City Council to raise funds by selling town hall furniture was criticised yesterday. Two mahogany wine coolers from a special suite will be auctioned for up to £70,000 at Sotheby's next month. The decision was described as "a mad aberration" by Richard Foster, director of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

Poppy drive

Car poppies are returning after a 13-year absence. The Royal British Legion is relaunching them to coincide with its annual poppy appeal. Made of red plastic and 6in in diameter, 500,000 car poppies will be available to the public from October 30 at petrol stations, Sainsbury and Woolworth stores. Remembrance Sunday is on November 12.

Dorrell pledges to 'learn any lessons' from Pill alarm

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

A REVIEW of the way family doctors are alerted to important health developments was promised by Stephen Dorrell yesterday, as he faced charges of complacency and incompetence over last week's public alert on the Pill.

But the Health Secretary strongly defended the procedures used by his department to tell GPs of new risks associated with seven types of contraceptive pill.

The warning last Thursday that women on those brands were twice as likely as those on other types to suffer deep vein thrombosis led to special helplines being inundated with calls from worried women. The seven brands are Femodene, Femodene ED, Minulet, Triadene, Tri-Minulet, Marvelon and Mercilon.

Mr Dorrell told MPs that he accepted that not every GP knew at the ideal moment in order to give advice to their patients. "I concede that is true, and I recognise that after any incident of this kind we need to ensure the arrangements are reviewed in order to learn any lessons."

But he said MPs must recognise it was not possible to carry on a cosy correspondence between the Secretary of State for Health and

The Pill alert has brought to light at least 100 cases of women who claim to have suffered serious illness after taking one of the contraceptives. Lawyers preparing a test case involving two of the Pills said they had been flooded with calls. Before the warning, 200 women had joined in the legal claim. The number has now risen to 300 and more are expected. All the new cases involve women who have suffered deep vein thrombosis or a blood clot in the lung after using one of the seven named Pills.

190,000 health professionals. The Medicines Control Agency had sent first class letters to 190,000 doctors and pharmacists last Wednesday. Faxes were sent to hospital drug information pharmacists. Directors of public health were alerted through the Epi-net electronic communication system.

"Against this background, the agency planned a public announcement on Thursday afternoon in order to allow doctors and pharmacists time to assimilate the information," he said. But media inquiries on Thursday morning had forced the agency to bring forward the announcement to

midday. The key points of the message were the same: that the increased risk of thrombosis from taking the seven brands remained roughly half the risk of thrombosis associated with pregnancy, and that women taking them should continue to do so until they had seen their GP or family planning doctor.

He said: "The Government has a duty to evaluate information on the safety of medicines as soon as it is available, and to ensure that doctors and their patients are in possession of the information necessary to allow them to make informed choices. That is what we have done."

Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokesman, said: "GPs are right to be angry that they had to rely for medical advice on page two of *The Guardian* and the BBC *Nine O'Clock News*." Some doctors had still not received notification by the end of Friday.

Demanding a review of procedures, she said: "Our GPs and their patients deserve better than the complacency and incompetence that this Government has shown."

Mr Dorrell said there were 1,174 calls on Saturday and 1,658 on Sunday to the information helpline, and "they were a great deal more calm and sensible than many of the people who have been commenting on this subject."



Mr Trimble, left, and Mr Spring, who failed to resolve their differences at talks in Belfast yesterday

Spring steers clear of the Shankill

By Nicholas Watt

DICK SPRING, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, was forced to cancel a visit to the loyalist Shankill area of Belfast last night because of fears for his safety.

Irish government officials said that Mr Spring, who was on a day trip to Belfast, changed his schedule after the RUC warned that it could not guarantee his safety. Last

night, however, the RUC denied it had provided any advice to the Irish officials.

Mr Spring, who was due to visit the headquarters of the Progressive Unionist Party on the Shankill Road, said he regretted that he could not visit the area. He later met Gusto Spence, a leading member of the DUP, at an hotel.

Fears of a loyalist protest against Mr Spring on the second anniversary of the IRA

bomb attack on the Shankill Road led to the cancellation of his visit. Loyalists were infuriated on Sunday when republicans marched through the nationalist Ardoyne area of North Belfast in honour of Thomas Begley, the IRA terrorist who died in the attack which killed nine Protestants.

During a busy day in Belfast, Mr Spring held his first meeting with David Trimble since his election as leader of

the Ulster Unionists. In a tense meeting, Mr Trimble accused Mr Spring of softening his position on the decommissioning of IRA arms. At a joint press conference after the talks at DUP headquarters, Mr Trimble described the meeting as useful, but said they had failed to resolve their differences.

Mr Spring said the meeting had improved relations between the two sides.

Sir Marcus faces 1922 challenge from Right

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory Right staged a preliminary skirmish yesterday in the civil war that will break out in the party if it loses the election. Bob Dunn, 49, a right-wing former education minister, announced that he was challenging Sir Marcus Fox for the chairmanship of the 1922 Committee of Conservative MPs.

Both candidates in next month's poll of all Tory backbenchers hail from the Right. But Mr Dunn, who has close links with Sir George Gardiner's 92 Group of 100 right-wingers, is seen as closer to the disaffected Thatcherites who tried to topple John Major in the summer. MPs on the Centre-Left said they were thinking of putting up a candidate to profit from the split on the Right.

In a further move, Sir George acted to tighten the Right's grip on the executive of the 1922 Committee to be elected at the same time. He wrote to 92 Group members urging them to back a clear-out of the old guard from the 18-strong executive and its



Dunn: former minister with links to 92 Group

replacement with "new blood" from the Right.

At least eight members of the current executive, including four office holders, are standing down at the election — Dame Jill Knight (joint vice-chairwoman), Sir Giles Shaw (treasurer), Sir John Hamman (joint secretary), Sir Peter Horden (joint secretary), Sir Terence Higgins, Sir Fergus Montgomery, Sir Anthony Durant and Sir Anthony Grant.

Sir George will propose

tomorrow at a 92 Group dinner that the "sound slate" of right-wing candidates for the 1922 executive and the officers of the other backbench Tory committees should be restricted to MPs intending to run again for Parliament.

"Bringing in new blood in this way will, I believe, add further cutting edge to our attack on Labour, and secure a degree of continuity into the general election and beyond," he said in his letter.

Sir George also confirmed that he would be retiring in January as chairman of the 92 Group after nearly 12 years.

The 1922 chairman and his executive will be key figures in the run-up to the election and will influence the tone and content of the next Conservative manifesto. But, more importantly for the Right, control of the 1922 Committee is likely to have a significant bearing on the outcome of the leadership contest that would follow an election defeat.

Sir Marcus, MP for Shipley, will be 70 by 1997, the most likely time for the next election. Last week he said: "I am standing at the next election and I am standing as chairman."

Marriage is 'downgraded' by equal rights for couples

By Nigel Williamson and Anne Ashworth

THE Government's commitment to family values was under attack last night over legislation that will give unmarried people who have lived together similar property rights to married couples.

A campaigning group said that the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, due to become law next month, undermines marriage. It would give an unmarried woman the right to seek a court order to exclude a violent partner from the home, even in cases where she has moved out and has no financial stake in the property.

The Family Law Action Group said that by treating married and non-married

couples alike, the institution of marriage was downgraded. Dr John Crompton said: "This removes the final remaining rules that give marriage a special status in law."

But a spokesman for Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, said that people living together outside marriage were not being given rights they did not enjoy before. The spokesman said: "In case law, non-married people living together as man and wife have long been treated in the same way as married couples. The new act will merely remove anomalies in the present law, create a single code and strengthen the powers of the courts." He stressed

that it will be for the courts to decide what is appropriate in each individual case.

Live-in lovers who call themselves common law husband and wife will find that, in practice, the law grants few if any legal and financial rights to cohabitants without children. As common law marriage ceased to exist when matrimonial law was reformed 300 years ago, if a married couple ends, the partners have a full range of potential property rights, including the right to claim maintenance for the spouse. If a live-in relationship breaks up, the partners can, in most cases, only stake a claim for financial support for children.

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Announcement ends months of rumour in golfing circles as second marriage ends after ten years

Nick Faldo offers his wife £7.5m in divorce payment

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

NICK FALDO, one of Britain's leading golfers, announced yesterday that he was separating from his wife, Gill. The end of their ten-year marriage was confirmed hours after a report that Faldo, one of the biggest earners in sport, had offered a £7.5 million divorce settlement to the mother of his three children, aged between two and nine.

Only a team of servants was at home yesterday at the country mansion in Winkleigh, Surrey, which the Faldos built as their dream home. Valued at up to £3 million, it is now destined to become part of a financial deal which will allow the sportsman to walk away from his second failed marriage. A statement issued at 3pm yesterday by IMG, Faldo's managers, on behalf of the couple, ended months of rumour in golfing circles.

It read: "It is with regret that Gill and Nick Faldo announce that they have separated after nearly ten years of marriage. Gill and Nick request privacy for themselves, their family and friends. There will be no further statement."

Mrs Faldo, 37, became the ultimate golfing widow this season when her husband



Faldo with Melanie, whom he left for Gill

joined the American tour to improve his chances of winning a major title. While he produced erratic performances across the Atlantic, his wife watched him at home on satellite television.

Close friends took comfort when Mrs Faldo flew to the United States with the Ryder Cup team to join her husband in Rochester, New York, last month. They danced together at the gala dinner. When Faldo, 38, put his winning

ball on the last green against Curtis Strange, after being one down with two holes to play, his wife ran to give him an ecstatic, and very public, hug but was upstaged by a sloppy embrace from his team mate Severiano Ballesteros. Faldo's name was then linked with Brenna Cepelak, 20, an American student on a golfing scholarship at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

The second Mrs Faldo has a keen business sense which has helped to build her husband's fortune. She is a director of Nick Faldo International and any attempts to extricate her from some of the companies which use the Nick Faldo name will be a challenge for the couple's legal advisers.

The success of their business partnership can be measured by Faldo's earnings last year, estimated at about £4 million. Only £700,000 of that was prize money. As well as their home in Surrey, the Faldos have a chalet in Switzerland worth an estimated £750,000. They also own a house in Florida where Faldo has been living while on the American tour.

The Faldos became a golden couple of sport. They received invitations to the White House to meet George Bush and to Downing Street where Denis



Faldo with Gill last month. She helped to build her husband's fortune

Thatcher was a fan. But friends said Faldo became moody when he fell from the top of the world rankings in the early 1990s. He is now fourth.

Peter Allis expressed his sadness yesterday at the news that his friend's marriage was finished. "I'm very sorry to hear that," the 64-year-old, twice-married golfer and broadcaster said. "There is pressure on everybody's life and everybody's marriage

these days." Faldo's first marriage, to Melanie Rockall, a sports journalist, ended in 1984. She received a telephone call from her husband in Hawaii saying that he had fallen in love with Gill, who was then secretary to his manager, John Simpson.

Melanie, who has since remarried, cited the pressure of touring with one of the world's top golfers as a cause of the marriage breakdown. Faldo was more blunt. He told

Sports Illustrated magazine: "We were very happily married for eight months. Unfortunately we were married for four and a half years."

Faldo is competing in the \$3 million US Tour Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this week. He became English amateur champion when he was 18 and two years later became the youngest player to take part in the Ryder Cup. He has won three Opens and two US Masters.

Time and travel take toll on sporting unions

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK FALDO is the most recent and most famous professional golfer to suffer a broken marriage, but he is not the only one. Two of his recent Ryder Cup team mates are undergoing divorces and rumours are rife that the marriages of at least two other professionals are unsteady.

Part of the reason is undoubtedly the strains of competing at the highest level in a sport that places particular demands on its participants because of the length of time each tournament takes — five days, excluding travelling time — and the distance of some venues.

Few sports exert such pressure on both the individual and his family. Golf has become truly a world game that lasts for 11 months as players circle the globe in search of tournaments, prize money and lucrative sponsorship deals.

Faldo's decision to move part-time to the United States at the start of the year was an attempt to revive a career that was flagging after his golden years between 1987 and 1992 when he won five of the world's leading championships three Opens and the US Masters twice. It meant he had to buy a home in the United States.

He and Gill discussed moving their son and two

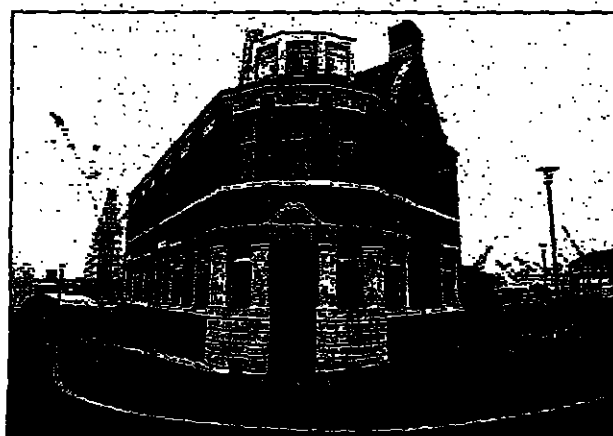
daughters to America but decided against it on the grounds that Natalia, 9, and Matthew, 6, were established in schools in England.

Other golfers whose marriages have crumbled include Fred Couples and Sam Torrance. The exuberance of Couples's wife, Debbie, always troubled him and, allegedly, the last straw was when she was seen dancing on a table during the 1992 Open.

For several years Couples's form plummeted but it has shown signs of recovering recently and he has announced his engagement to Tawnya Dodd. Torrance is currently in the best form of his life and heading the European Order of Merit, with winnings this year of £630,000.

Golf's big three in the 1960s and 1970s were Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player. All rose to eminence with the support of their wives who, as often as possible, accompanied them around the world.

A few years ago Nicklaus reminisced about a career that included 18 major titles, a record that makes him one of the greatest golfers of the century. "It may be that my greatest achievement was in marrying Barbara and letting her bring up the family," he said.



The Ship in the Hole pub, centre of an armed siege

Armed police fail to move drinkers

By PAUL WILKINSON

DRINKERS in a northeast pub went on an eight-hour binge after finding themselves at the centre of an armed siege. Police surrounded the building, and brought in marksmen after being told that an armed robber and two suspects were inside the Ship in the Hole at Wallsend, Tyne & Wear.

But their appeals for customers to come out were ignored as the pub-goers drank themselves into a stupor. They eventually emerged in the early hours yesterday when they were too drunk to care — or to answer questions.

The siege began on Sunday afternoon after detectives were tipped off that the three men were in the pub close to the Swan Hunter shipyard. Up to 40 officers, some wearing flak jackets, ringed the pub where at least 30 people had spent the afternoon drinking and watching exotic dancers.

As an officer approached the pub he was met with a torrent of abuse and refused entry.

Superintendent Bob Pattison, who led the operation, said: "We tried to get the people to come out but they were all happy to stay and keep on drinking... I think we are probably looking at the driest pub in Wallsend."

Fifteen people gave themselves up shortly afterwards, but as officers moved in a police dog and its handler were kicked. The officer suffered a broken finger and four people were arrested.

Negotiations with those still inside were opened over a mobile phone but as the night wore on they became less and less coherent. Every so often the pub door would open and a figure would appear, hands in the air as if in surrender, but as officers moved out the shadows he would rush back inside amid a roar of laughter from the bar.

Police eventually made 17 arrests. One person was charged with being drunk and disorderly and two were cautioned. The rest were released.

Battle line drawn in clash of the tartan

By ALAN HAMILTON

CLAYMORES were drawn in the glens of Scotland yesterday, in the cause of selling tartan to tourists.

The Scottish Tartans Authority was launched at simultaneous press conferences at a trade fair in Aviemore, and at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Georgia, United States, where the plaid is popular despite the heat. The promoters' first task was to accuse the Scottish Tartan Society, the long-established keeper of all wisdom on who can wear what, of not doing enough.

Behind the new authority are weavers, distributors and retailers who enjoy substantial exports, especially in North America. The authority has no authority in any legal sense, but is the latest shop window for hundreds of jobs and millions in profits for Scottish textile mills.

Two years ago the Scottish Tartan Society, established as a registered charity for more than 30 years, was forced to close its tartan museum at Comrie, Perthshire, because of a lack of funds. The new authority plans its own tartan centre next year.

Keith Lumsden, of the Scottish Tartan Society, agreed yesterday that some members had expressed concern about its finances to the charities department at the Scottish Office. He said: "If the commercial powers that be want to set up a major tartan centre, that can only be for the good."

Global warming tempts native butterflies north

By NICK NUTTALL

NEARLY 20 years of hot summers and mild winters have led to a boom in common British butterflies, with some now found up to 100 miles north of their traditional homes.

With this month likely to become the warmest October since 1659, a government-funded report on butterflies offers further evidence for global warming.

The report, based on weekly surveys carried out since 1976, shows that species such as the small skipper, gatekeeper and peacock are on the increase. The gatekeeper had expanded into Scotland from a line stretching from North Wales to the Wash. Dr Jeremy Thomas of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, said:

"The survey, funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Natural Environment Research Council, also confirms that rare



The small skipper: now on the increase

species are continuing to decline because they need more specialised habitats than common ones.

Ernie Pollard, a retired scientist with the institute who set up the national survey, said yesterday that the benefits of rising temperatures were being overwhelmed by changes in land use. Around half of Britain's 60 butterfly species are rare.

Dr Pollard cited the decline in coppiced woodlands and the loss of rich grasslands as key reasons for the loss of rare butterfly populations such as the pearl-bordered and the high brown fritillary.

However, the fortunes of at least one rare British butterfly may have been turned around by the weather. Dr Martin Warren, of Butterfly Conservation, said yesterday that the white admiral was now as far north as Lincolnshire and "was regaining its 19th-century range".

The impact of the weather on butterfly populations comes as experts have become almost blasé about the recent influx of monarch butterflies from America and Caribbean beauties from the Continent. Dr Warren said: "People are simply not recording them any more because they have been so numerous, but it really has been quite a phenomenon, particularly in October."

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Almost half of £40 million payout will go to small organisations with income of less than £20,000

Local charities gain at expense of big names

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA COMMENTARY

THE National Lottery Charities Board awarded more than £40 million to 67 charities yesterday as part of a strategy favouring grassroots and community schemes over national charities.

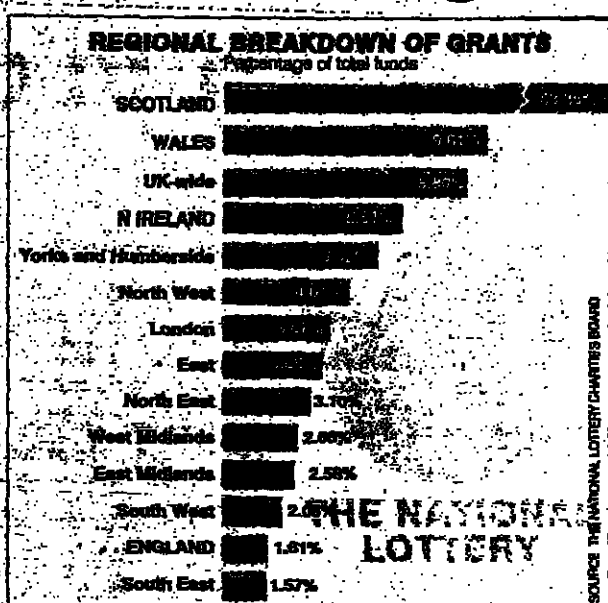
Nearly half of the first grants announced will go to tiny charities with an annual income of less than £20,000. About a quarter of the lottery cheques are for less than £20,000, with a further 25 per

cent worth under £50,000. David Sieff, the board's chairman, said his primary aim was to give grants "that help those of greatest disadvantage in society and which improve the quality of life in the community".

He added: "We said from the start that we wanted to help small local groups who often don't get a share of the big fund-raising money."

The average grant announced was £64,000, but the awards ranged from £900 towards new toys for the Phoenix Toy Library in Swindon to £666,177 for Strathclyde Poverty Alliance to provide information and training for support workers in one of the most deprived areas of Scotland.

The larger charities benefiting yesterday include the Cit-



zens Advice Bureau, the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, Cancer Research Campaign, Mencap, Scope, Age Concern, Arthritis Care, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Samaritans, the Scouts, the Guides and the Sea Cadets. Together they received £3.8 million.

Sarah Ryder, who runs the Phoenix Toy Library, said she hoped to use the money to buy "equal opportunity" toys for the 60 families registered with her charity, which is staffed by volunteers. "So many toys reinforce stereotypes because they have pictures showing mummy doing the washing

up and daddy washing the car. We want to buy more toys that show more of a variety, including ethnic minorities and disabled people," she said.

Other projects winning funding include victim support groups, voluntary care schemes, swimming clubs for people with disabilities and help for people at risk of domestic violence.

Andrew Essex of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, which received £188,482 towards an advice centre for visually impaired people wanting to set up their own business, sounded a note of

caution about the grants, however. "Donations to the RNIB have declined by about £500,000 since the launch of the lottery. We have just received a lottery grant of £188,482, so our income is still down. We are worried now that people will see that we have got a lottery grant and will think that we don't need their money," he said.

Yesterday's announcement was the first of three in the next seven weeks, which will see total awards of £162 million. "That may seem a large amount, but it is equivalent to only 1 per cent of the income of the voluntary sector," Mr Sieff said. "Charities will always depend on the enormous generosity of the public."

Scotland received 223 grants worth £17.6 million; Wales 67 grants, £3.8 million; and Northern Ireland 74 grants, £2.6 million. Some 215 grants were awarded to charities in England totalling £12.5 million. They broke down by region: North West 41 grants for £1.8 million; North East, 16 grants, £1.2 million; Yorkshire and Humberside, 23 grants, £2.2 million; West Midlands, 14 grants, £1 million; East Midlands, 16 grants, £1 million; Eastern 28 grants, £1.4 million; South West, 26 grants, £825,000; South East, 16 grants, £630,000; Greater London, 31 grants, £1.5 million.

Libby Purves, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Checks devised to catch fraudsters

STRICT checks have been imposed on charities and voluntary groups bidding for lottery grants amid fears of fraudulent applications (Alexandra Frean writes).

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has conceded privately that the sheer volume of applications means sooner or later officials are "bound to give some money to the wrong person".

Timothy Hornsby, chief executive of the National Lottery Charities Board, said yesterday that charities receiving money would be required to submit receipts for expenditure incurred on lottery-funded projects and to send photographs of what is in progress. They will also be liable to checks from the board's assessors.

"No system can be 100 per cent foolproof, but we are satisfied that we have

the proper monitoring controls," he said. Applicants have to fill in a 13-page form and give full details of their finances. After their charitable status has been checked, the applications are sent to assessors in the bidder's region.

A spokeswoman for the Board said: "Each application is assessed on its merits. If the applicant wanted to refurbish a building or had applied for a very large sum, they incur a visit from an assessor. If it is more simple, they will probably be interviewed over the phone."

John de la Cour, joint interim South West region manager, said: "Applicants are

two hours for a very simple application, but much longer for more complex bids."

Assessments are referred to the three-member regional committees for England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and one for the whole of the United Kingdom. The England committee is advised by nine regional panels. None of the recipients of yesterday's grants will receive a penny until they have accepted the board's conditions about the quality and progress of their projects. Most money is paid in advance instalments.

There are 179,000 registered charities which might apply for a grant. To register as a charity, it must meet one of four criteria: it must relieve the poor, handicapped or aged; advance education or religion; or benefit the community.



Prayers answered: Dr Nguyen-Xuan says that the Vietnamese had been affected by decades of war

Vietnamese group defends £170,000 for mentally ill

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE co-ordinator of a London-based charity helping Vietnamese refugees with mental health problems defended its award of £174,150 from the National Lottery yesterday.

Dr Nguyen-Xuan said the Vietnamese Mental Health Project fulfilled a vital role because research proved that serious psychological illness was much higher in the 17,000-strong Vietnamese community in London than the national average. This, he said, reflected the experience of three decades of war. "We expected our application to succeed because we fulfilled the criteria in the National Lottery booklet," Dr Nguyen-Xuan said.

The charity, which is run from a private house in Brixton, is one of a series involved with ethnic minorities which benefited yesterday. Two others work with Somali and Eritrean refugees. Dr Nguyen-Xuan, 61, a GP who trained in America and Canada and escaped Vietnam on a boat to Malaysia in 1980, said the money would be used over the next three years to expand the project, including providing the salary for a new director.

He deals with various forms of depression and anxiety, post-traumatic stress and schizophrenia. "Most of our people between the ages of 20 and 50 went through the war," he said. "There are a lot of psychosis problems to do with the war and the problems of coming here."

The charity was launched in 1989 after a two-year research project into the mental health of the Vietnamese community. Since then Dr Nguyen-Xuan has managed on a budget of about £130,000 a year, made up of health authority grants and cash from charitable trusts in the City and the BBC's Children in Need appeal. This has enabled him to employ four community mental health

workers and two workers at a support hostel, one of whom is part time. The charity will extend its work at hospitals, helping psychiatrists and GPs in their assessment of cases. There will also be home visits and counselling for patients and families.

Another charity awarded money yesterday was the Eritrean Advice and Information Centre, also in south London. Timothy Hornsby, chief executive of the National Lottery Charities Board, rejecting an outburst of criticism in the press over this choice, described the centre as "a jolly good scheme". The centre, which received £90,000, aims to help young Eritreans between the ages of 14 and 25 "avoid poverty and isolation"

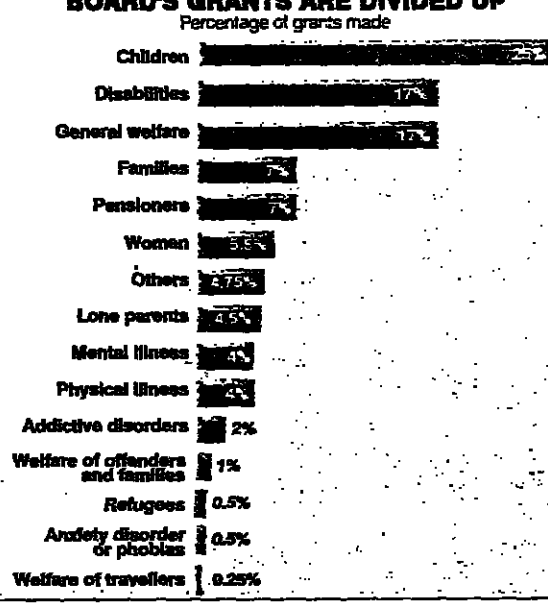
MINORITIES

by offering them advice about health, housing, education and training.

The lottery grant will help the centre to employ an advice worker over the next three years. At the moment it is run by one woman. The office, above a tailor's workshop and next to a laundrette on Stockwell Road, was deserted yesterday. An Eritrean student Mekonnen Tekosta, aged 22, who was waiting outside, said the Centre had helped him with advice on applying to charities for college travelling expenses. When told of the lottery money he said: "It is very good news. It will help a lot of people."

Mr Hornsby said much of the criticism of awards to charities helping ethnic minorities came from people who had not bothered to look at the work the organisations were doing. "Less than 1 per cent has gone to refugees and they need it. Less than 3 per cent has gone to drugs and addiction and they need it. Six per cent has gone to ethnic minority groups and they need it," he said.

HOW THE NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD'S GRANTS ARE DIVIDED UP



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Campbell in the Bluebird cockpit at Coniston Water with Mr Whopit and, right, Gina Campbell, who is selling her father's racing mascot

Donald Campbell's high-speed bear goes on sale

GINA CAMPBELL, daughter of the water speed ace Donald Campbell, bade farewell yesterday to the teddy bear that survived the crash which claimed her father's life nearly 29 years ago.

Mr Whopit, Campbell's racing mascot and inseparable companion, was plucked from Coniston Water after floating to the surface a few minutes after Campbell's 328mph crash in Bluebird on January 4, 1967. After his death his daughter adopted

Mr Whopit and continued the family tradition, started by her grandfather Sir Malcolm, by achieving the women's world water speed record in 1984. Now Ms Campbell, 47, has decided to sell her beloved teddy, together with a collection of family trophies, documents, letters, books, newspaper cuttings and other memorabilia.

The archive, which includes her father's passport and telegrams of condolence sent to the family, is expected to fetch up to £60,000 at

Christie's in London on December 11. But the star of the collection is undoubtedly Mr Whopit, made by the English firm Merrythought in 1956 and given to Campbell by his friend Peter Barker the following year.

Ms Campbell said yesterday: "It's sad to see him go. He and my father were inseparable. He was always the last thing to go on board in Dad's record attempts and the first thing off afterwards. Later I became paranoid about him — refusing to race if he

wasn't alongside me. The time is right to take the harsh decision to sell him. He used to be on display at my restaurant in Lymington but then I ran into insurance problems. Since then he has been in a bank vault, which seems so unfair."

Leyla Manera, Christie's teddy bear specialist, said: "Mr Whopit was more than a mascot, he was Donald Campbell's little companion. He is also quite rare. Merrythought only made these bears for one year."

Link 'hard to explain as chance'

Fourth farmer may have contracted CJD from cattle

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Health Department is investigating a possible fourth case of a cattle farmer believed to be suffering from the human equivalent of "mad cow" disease. If confirmed, the case is likely to add to anxiety that the cattle disease could be transmitted to humans, although experts cautioned yesterday against jumping to that conclusion.

In the past three years, three cattle farmers in Britain have died of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD). The new case being investigated is understood to involve a farmer from North Wales whose herd suffered from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the cattle disease caused by a similar agent to CJD. Cases can be definitively confirmed only after death, and the farmer involved is still alive.

The case came to light when a fax intended for a member of the Health Department's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee was accidentally misdirected. The message, which summarised the conclusions of a meeting held earlier this month, said that the committee had reviewed the latest possible case against the three already confirmed.

The document went on: "The committee concluded that it was difficult to explain this simply as a chance phenomenon. There is a statistical excess of cases in cattle farmers compared with the general population."

Studies by the CJD Surveillance Unit at Edinburgh's Western General Hospital show that the three confirmed cases of CJD among British farmers are not significantly different from the rates in farmers in other European countries, where there is no BSE. There were three cases of CJD among British farmers from 1992 to 1994, against four in France over the same period, two in Germany in a single year, and three in Italy in one year.

The incidence in Britain is 5.7 cases per million dairy farmers per year, against 4.3 in France, 3.8 in Germany, and 13.6 in Italy.

The CJD unit has failed to find increased rates of the disease among vets, or people who work in abattoirs. Yesterday Dr John Collinge, a CJD expert from St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, west London, said that the new case, even if it was confirmed, "would not worry me unduly".

The numbers were so small, he said, that it was very hard to assess their significance. "It is quite hard to transmit these diseases orally."

If any occupational group was found to be at greater risk, the chances were that the

infective agent had been transmitted from infected meat into the bloodstream through a wound in the skin, he said. If so, farmers who had handled infected feed or the meat of their animals might run a heightened risk. "My opinion is that there is not the evidence to show that any of these cases has resulted from contaminated meat."

The surveillance unit's report shows that vets have the highest incidence of the disease, at 11.8 cases per million per year, with professional drivers second, at 8.2 cases. But these incidence rates are based on such tiny numbers — two vets and three drivers — that they are meaningless.

The report showed that in 1994 55 people — a record — died of CJD in the United Kingdom. This was only far higher than was recorded in 1992, and the rising figures are almost certainly a consequence of intensive surveillance. Other countries without BSE show similar rises.

The eating habits of those who died of CJD does show an apparent link with eating beef. Those who eat it monthly show a risk two or three times those who never eat it, but when numbers of cases are small, chance associations can show up where there is no true cause and effect.

Scientists fear infected tissue left in carcasses

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

VETS and neuropathologists are worried that potentially infected tissue may be left in the carcasses of cattle harbouring BSE by abattoirs.

John Frank, president of the Association of Meat Hygienists, which inspects meat, said: "Some of our members have raised the problem that it is difficult to be certain that all bits of the membrane encasing the spinal cord and central nervous system — the meninges — have been taken out."

Under rules in place since November 1989, the brain, spinal cord, thymus, tonsils, spleen and intestine must be removed at the abattoir from all cattle intended for human consumption. These so-called specified offals are thought to be the only organs capable of carrying BSE. Kevin Taylor,

the Government's deputy chief veterinary officer, said: "There is no legal requirement to remove the meninges. It is a common mistake to assume that the meninges are removed."

Abattoirs are supposed to remove all specified offals and stain them so that the material can be kept separate and eventually incinerated. Last August the Ministry of Agriculture tightened the enforcement of the rules after

admitting that some of the offal might still be finding their way into animal feed.

According to the ministry, there have been 9,602 new cases of BSE in cattle this year. The annual production of meat in 1994, the number 160 new cases occurred each week is between 200 and 250, compared with around 800 at the peak of the epidemic.

About 154,000 cattle have died from BSE since it was first diagnosed in 1986. The ministry believes it passed to cattle in feed containing meat and bone meal that included the remains of sheep infected with scrapie.

Government scientists have stuck to this theory even though more than 20,000 cattle have died since such feed was banned in July 1988 have gone down with BSE.

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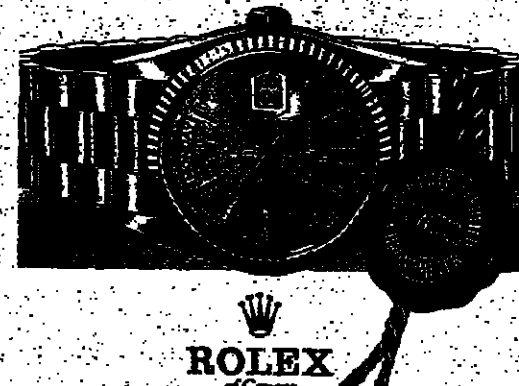
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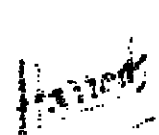


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Scientists identify the red hair gene

By Nigel Hawkes

SCIENTISTS at Newcastle University have identified the gene linked to red hair and fair skin, explaining why people who possess them are at greater risk of skin cancer.

Professor Tony Thody and colleagues from Newcastle's Department of Dermatology have shown that people with red hair and fair skin are far more likely to carry a particular gene which makes it difficult for them to tan. This means that they have less protection against skin cancer caused by the sun than others. More than 80 per cent of redheads studied by the team possess this gene, while only 20 per cent of those with brown or black hair do.

Professor Thody said yesterday: "This will allow us to identify and warn people who are at greater risk of cancer."

Laboratory-grown ear could revolutionise transplant surgery

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SCIENTISTS in the United States have grown a living ear from human cartilage cells in a procedure that could transform transplant surgery. The ear has been transplanted on to the back of a mouse, to show that it can survive.

The team, led by Dr Charles Vacanti of the University of Massachusetts, made the ear from a patient's cells. It was grown around a support of polymer mesh, which gave the ear its correct shape before dissolving away.

The laboratory-grown ear could be used to replace those lost in accidents, or to help children who are born with only one ear. In future, the same techniques could be used to create many organs, including human livers.

Because the organ is made from the patient's cells, there will be no rejection problems — an advantage over conventional transplants.

Dr Vacanti says on a BBC Television *Tomorrow's World* special, to be broadcast to-

night, that he chose to work on cartilage because it is a very simple structure. "In retrospect this was a wise move because we have been able to progress much further with cartilage in a short period of time than we ever anticipated."

The technique starts by taking a small sample from the patient and growing it in an incubator. The ear takes shape within a mould by growing around the polymer mesh, made of the same sort of material as surgeons use for stitches that do not need to be removed because they are absorbed.

The polymer was developed by Professor Bob Langer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and provides a surface area to which the cells attach themselves. The ear is ready in about four weeks.

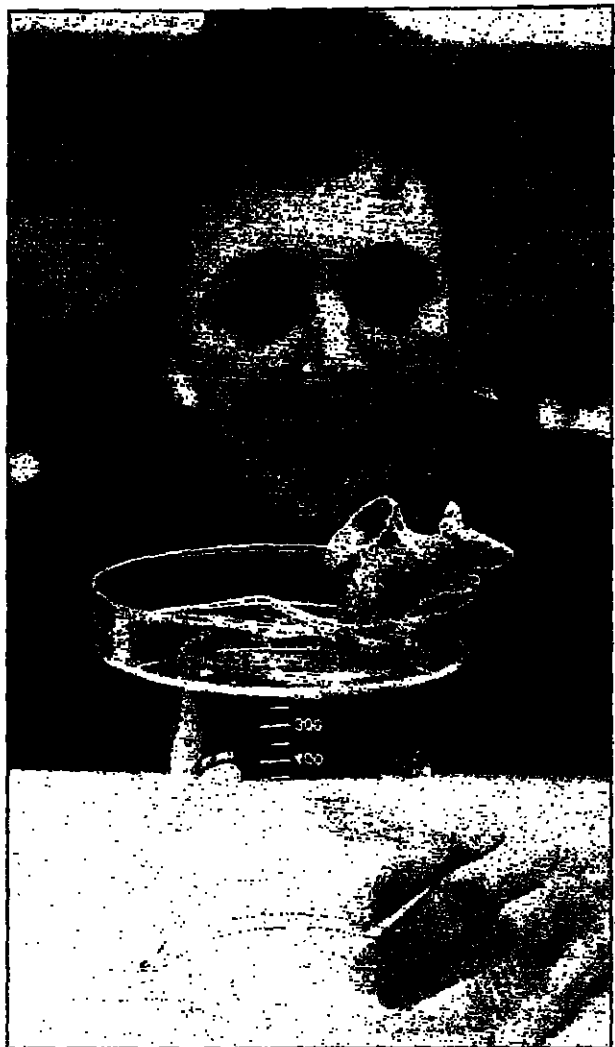
In Boston, Jay Vacanti, Charles's brother and a transplant surgeon, has used similar methods to create heart valves and is working on

human livers in the hope of saving children who suffer liver failure. He has made progress, growing pieces of liver in laboratory rats which have produced some of the functions of the organ.

"Tissue engineering, if ultimately successful, will not only totally eliminate the need for donor organs, but also the stress associated with being on a donor list and waiting for a specific organ, wondering if you will receive the organ before you die," Dr Charles Vacanti tells *Tomorrow's World*.

In Britain, tissue engineering has been pioneered by Smith & Nephew, the medical company. Dr Jay Vacanti is working in co-operation with Advanced Tissue Sciences, a company from California with which Smith & Nephew has an agreement.

One of the first uses for human cartilage is expected to be in the repair of knees damaged in sports injuries.



Vivienne Parry of *Tomorrow's World* inspecting the ear grafted on to a mouse by American scientists

Courts martial threatened by human rights challenge

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN'S court-martial system could be under threat from the European Commission of Human Rights, over the case of a Falklands war veteran jailed for two years and dismissed from the Army.

A ruling is expected before Christmas on whether the punishment of former Lance Sergeant Alec Findlay, of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, should be referred to the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr Findlay was court-martialled after threatening to kill himself and colleagues at a barracks in Northern Ireland. His lawyers claimed he was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after his experience in the Falkland Islands. If his case goes to the court, other cases also face scrutiny. They include the court martial of former Commander Richard Lane, who served on HMS *Cove* in the Falklands war and was later dismissed over a false claim for removal expenses. He also claimed to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The court-martial system is due to be examined next year as part of a five-yearly review of the Armed Forces Act. However, the cases in the pipeline before the Commission could force a more drastic review.

Four cases are to be highlighted on Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme tomorrow night, including that of Mr Findlay, 33, who left the Army in 1991. Yesterday he said that his plea of mitigation had been ignored. "What I did was wrong, I know that, but the court should have taken into account the terrible experience I had in the Falklands."

During the 1982 war, a friend was shot in the throat while next to him. Mr Findlay saved his life by using his bayonet to perform an emergency tracheotomy in the dark. He was later wounded

himself. Mr Findlay, who is now divorced, said he suffered nightmares which continued while he was on tour in Northern Ireland.

On the programme John Mackenzie, Mr Findlay's solicitor, says: "Military psychiatrists diagnosed him as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. But nothing that was said during the court martial made a whit of difference to what happened to him. It was a kangaroo court. It was just a formality."

Former Commander Richard Lane was on HMS *Cove* when it was hit by three 1,000lb bombs dropped by an Argentine fighter aircraft. Nineteen men were killed and he suffered serious burns.

When he was appointed to a military job in the United States after the war, he turned to alcohol to repress the vivid flashbacks to the war and the memory of the screams of burning crewmen. At a court martial he was found guilty of fiddling £2,000 in removal expenses. He received a suspended prison sentence.

Now 47, he lives in the Isle of Wight. He is unemployed but draws a commander's pension. He said: "I feel bitter. Court martials are an antiquated system."

The Armed Forces rejects allegations that the system is unfair. A survey by the Army's legal services department found that a soldier appearing before a court martial had as good a chance of an acquittal as a civilian in a Crown Court.

Disciplinary courts martial are handled by a panel of three officers, but criminal cases are heard by five officers, with a full colonel or brigadier acting as president. A civilian Judge Advocate is present to give legal advice, and defendants have civilian barristers. Courts martial were instituted 600 years ago, although the present system dates from 1955.



Falklands veterans dismissed: ex-Lance Sergeant Findlay, left, and former Commander Lane

BA pilot in spectacular string feat

AN AMERICAN woman who left her spectacles on a flight to London was reunited with them on a plane bound for Italy, thanks to a British Airways pilot and a piece of string.

Susan Schwartz, who forgot the glasses on a BA flight to Heathrow from Philadelphia, realised her error after switching to the flight to Milan. When she alerted BA to the loss, her glasses were found on the first plane and rushed to Bob Hughes, the airline's arrival customer service agent at the airport.

By then Ms Schwartz's plane was taxiing to the runway, so Mr Hughes ran across the tarmac to the where the aircraft was waiting in a queue before take-off.

Captain Brian Swift opened the cockpit window, leaned out and lowered a piece of string to Mr Hughes, who tied the glasses to it. The pilot pulled them up and delivered them to a grateful passenger.

A spokesman for the airline said: "We were happy to reunite Mr Schwartz with his glasses, albeit in a way rather more suited to the MMR Tray than."

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BY TIM JONES

Today a team of 20 officers will be asking every young man who lives in the area, or who was visiting at the time, to



Mr Bayliss insisted that the inquiry was not losing momentum. It had taken until

The 40 police officers on the case have interviewed more than 1,800 people and obtained witness statements from a further 441. David Freeman, Naomi's half-brother, said yesterday: "I am sure everyone in the village will be willing to take part. We all

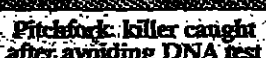


South Wales Constabulary used DNA when in 1990 they introduced a "mass bleeding", taking samples from more than 3,000 men after the murder of Geraldine Palk, who was also 15. Since then, they have received permission to subject any male charged with a recordable offence to the cheaper buccal swab technique.



Nearly 200 seriously ill children were flown to Florida on holiday yesterday. They were on British Airways' charity *Dreamflight to Orlando*, where they will spend a week staying near Disney's Magic Kingdom.

Buccal swabs cost £40 to take and analyse, compared with £204 for a DNA test based on a blood sample. If all the estimated 800 men are



The force must meet the cost of the tests out of the £120,000 it has allocated for the murder

A method of obtaining a profile, which can be compared to a print-out of a person's DNA make-up, was discovered by Professor Alec Jeffreys, a geneticist at Leicester University, in 1984. He showed how DNA can be broken down into a pattern of bands, similar to bar codes on supermarket products. A sample of saliva, a hair root, blood

test. Any sample taken from a volunteer that does not match the one taken from the scene of the crime is kept until the end

The world's first mass screening of potential suspects using DNA techniques took place in Leicestershire as

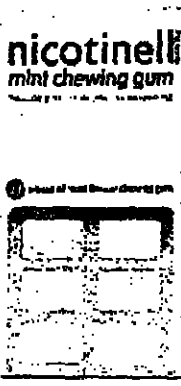
Only two males refused to take the test. One had a genuine reason and the other was Colin Pitchfork, 27, who was sentenced to life in 1988

South Wales police are currently carrying out a mass blood test for DNA purposes to try to catch the killer of Claire Hood, who was found dead earlier this year. They have tested 1,250 people so far but have not charged anyone.

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Saudi mosque bomb tears veil from kingdom in crisis

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE explosion which ripped through a crowded Saudi Arabian mosque during prayers last Friday, killing eight and wounding 100, has raised urgent questions about security inside the secretive kingdom which is the world's largest oil exporter.

Although authorities insist the bomb was detonated as part of a land dispute in remote village 310 miles from the capital, Riyadh, diplomats saw it as a reminder of the economic, social and religious difficulties besetting a country which has just marked its 63rd anniversary. Despite the in-

roduction in 1993 of a 60-member consultative assembly and the reform a year previously of the rules of succession to King Fahd, 73, internal dissent — especially among Islamic fundamentalists — has been growing, whipped up by seditionist audio-cassettes.

One of these attempts to undermine the House of Saud and its close links with the United States, depicting America as a "nation of beasts who fornicate and eat rotten food", where joggers "run practically naked like men"

"without shame and without a veil". Others are more specific in their accusations of official Saudi corruption and fiscal mismanagement.

Dissent has been fuelled by the economic misfortunes which followed the 1991 Gulf War. After decades of plenty, state spending has been cut by more than 26 per cent in the past two years. Saudis have to pay more for electricity, water and domestic air fares, and their privilege of unlimited free local phone calls has been scrapped.

The crisis has been caused by Gulf War debts of £35 billion and low oil prices. Yesterday the *Middle East Economic Survey* disclosed that Saudi Aramco had delayed expansion projects at two key oilfields because of lower oil prices and forecasts of reduced demand.

Commenting on the economic health of a nation, the excesses of whose 6,000 royal princes have become legend in the Gulf and beyond, Richard Pipes, editor of the *American Middle East Quarterly*, wrote: "As a country, Saudi Arabia is very rich. The state, however, is dirt poor. Every royal is spoken for."

The social and economic woes have been accompanied by an alarming increase in crime. Last year there was a 78 per cent jump in thefts and a 34 per cent rise in sex crimes over 1992.

These figures have been exceeded by the increase in the number of public beatings: the execution last week of five more found guilty of drug-smuggling brought to 192 the number of public executions carried out so far this year, compared with 53 in the whole of 1994.

Although drug traffickers, murderers and sex offenders have been the main victims, observers are convinced a message is also being sent to political opponents. With further political reform on hold, more instability is expected.



Bernelee Daniell, the South African entrant, taking part in rehearsals in Dubai yesterday for the 1995 Miss World Pageant, set for South Africa next month

OJ seeks out his black allies

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

FLANKED by his lawyers, O.J. Simpson has made a surprise appearance in one of the few corners of America where he is still idolised — the overwhelmingly black district of South-Central Los Angeles.

A subdued Mr Simpson arrived unannounced for Sunday brunch at the Boulevard Café, a landmark restaurant famous for surviving the worst of the city's 1992 riots. He sat beneath portraits of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, ordered pork chops and mashed potato, and later signed autographs.

Mr Simpson's warm welcome in what is popularly known as "the hood" was doubly striking since the millionaire celebrity shunned the area before his trial.

The café's owner said the visit sent a "good signal" that Mr Simpson hopes to re-establish his ties with the black community that has been his sole supporter since his acquittal of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Mr Simpson arrived at the café with his daughter, Arnelle, and his two black lawyers, Johnnie Cochran and Carl Douglas. The visit apparently was arranged by Mr Cochran, who orchestrated a similar rapprochement between Michael Jackson and the Los Angeles black community after the singer's child-molestation scandal last year.

Scheme to avert aid disasters

LEADING aid agencies are planning an early-warning system to prevent humanitarian disasters such as the refugee crisis in Goma in the aftermath of the Rwandan civil war. In a report out today, they also propose a code of conduct for aid agencies (Oliver August writes).

Last summer one million Hutus sought refuge in the Zairean border town of Goma. Thousands of refugees died.

The planned early-warning system will be based on networks of local informants reporting directly to aid agencies. A new code of conduct would include guidelines on how agencies should deal with emergencies like Goma, where the lack of co-operation exacerbated the situation.

Ivory Coast vote

Abidjan: In its second multi-party election, boycotted by most opposition parties, the Ivory Coast returned President Henri Konan Bedie with an overwhelming majority in a turnout estimated at more than 50 per cent. (Reuters)

Suu Kyi blow

Rangoon: Burma's military Government ruled that Aung San Suu Kyi's reappointment as a leader of her National League for Democracy was illegal. Daw Suu Kyi was freed from six years of house arrest in July. (AP)

Saddam reward

Baghdad: Iraqis will receive increased food rations from December as a reward for voting President Saddam Hussein to victory in last week's referendum. The President has also promised elections early next year. (Reuters)

Arms eclipsed

Siem Reap, Cambodia: Soldiers and police have been disarmed to prevent spent bullets from celebratory gunfire for today's total eclipse of the Sun from falling on tourists at Angkor Wat. (AFP)

Algerian poll race defies militants

BY MARK FREUND NORTH AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ALGERIA'S presidential election candidates yesterday defied threats from Islamic militants and began campaigning in the knowledge that the outcome of the contest next month will determine the country's future.

Four candidates qualified to stand after collecting 75,000 signatures. Yesterday "one filed" candidate, Redha Malek, claimed that he had secured the necessary support but was deemed ineligible because his "hardline" views would have divided the army vote between himself and President Zeroual, a former general.

Mr Zeroual's attempt to use a meeting with President Chirac at the United Nations in New York effectively to launch his campaign failed when the talks were cancelled by French officials after Mr Zeroual announced that he wanted the meeting to be held in front of television cameras.



Zerkoual talks cancelled

The three other Algerian presidential candidates are Sheikh Mahfoud Nahmah, Said Sadi and Nouredin Boukrouh.

They reflect the breadth of issues at stake. Islam, national identity and the character and role of the state are the issues which three years of civil war and 40,000 dead have thrust into the political debate. The violence continues with the death toll from the car bomb blast in Relizane, 120 miles west of Algiers, on Sunday rising to ten yesterday with 82 people injured.

Emily Brontë teaches nurses to cry

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE real tear-jerker is on the last page when a weeping little boy declares that he has seen the ghosts of Heathcliff and Cathy walking on the moor. There is such a lot of dying in *Wuthering Heights*, one of the great three-hankie reads of literature, that Emily Brontë's classic is being recommended as a textbook for nurses learning how to deal with grief.

Not, of course, in Yorkshire, where upper lips are as stiff as a starched pinny and the knifing winds on Howarth Moor dry the first emerging hint of a tear. This

is in Australia, where the dramas of *Neighbours* and *Prisoner* — *Cell Block H* are insufficient role models for the real world of bereavement and emotional pain.

First-year nursing students at Griffith University in northern Queensland are being asked to sob their way through the tragic life of Cathy Earnshaw and other fictional heroines in the hope that they will learn something of compassion.

Wendy Moyle, co-ordinator of the nursing degree course at Griffith, said that her university was the first to use literature, poetry and music to enhance students' appreciation of the sense of loss

and mental suffering associated with bereavement. The intention was to shift the emphasis of nursing education from high-technology medical equipment back to the patient.

Any trainee nurse who can cope with an adopted son who is treated like an animal, has a relationship with his adoptive sister who dies in childbirth, disappears for three years and returns to attempt the destruction of his former family, finally becoming a deranged recluse detached from all human reality, and all this on a bleak moor above Bradford, deserves not so much a nursing diploma as a medal.



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Blow to franc as Chirac joins flats scandal list

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French franc fell sharply once again yesterday after a newspaper reported that President Chirac could face prosecution for allegedly using his influence while Mayor of Paris to continue renting a large flat on the Left Bank at less than half the market rate.

The latest housing "affair" coincides with polls indicating that President Chirac's popularity is at a new low point.

The Paris prosecutor has been asked to rule whether the President should face a legal investigation and possible prosecution, the left-wing *Libération* newspaper said yesterday. The prospect of a second damaging housing scandal emerged two weeks after Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, narrowly avoided prosecution for renting himself a flat at a reduced rent while Deputy Mayor.

An official complaint was lodged last Saturday with Bruno Cotte, the Paris prosecutor, calling for an investigation into whether M Chirac could be prosecuted in connection with his rental of a flat on the fashionable Rue du Bac, a charge the President has denied.

In 1977 the Chiracs began renting the luxurious ground-floor flat for Fr11,000 a month. In 1989 the owners of the property said they were going to sell and the Chiracs faced having to move. However, a company that is partly owned by the city of Paris intervened and the flat was bought for Fr12 million. M Chirac, then

Mayor of Paris, remained in residence and his rent was increased by a mere Fr1,200 a month. The flat was bought by a subsidiary of the SGIM company, which manages some of the city's council housing and is 39 per cent owned by the city.

A plea has been lodged with the Paris prosecutor on behalf of Evelyn Ferreira, a Paris taxpayer, demanding an investigation into whether President Chirac illegally interfered with the purchase of the flat, which enabled the Mayor to continue living there at a fraction of the market rate.

"Was Jacques Chirac guilty of an illegal conflict of interest... did he have authority over the SGIM and thus its subsidiaries?" *Libération* asked yesterday.

This is the second time in as many weeks that M Cotte has been faced with a politically sensitive legal decision. He has already ruled that the Prime Minister was guilty of a conflict of interest for renting a city-owned flat at a reduced rate while Deputy Mayor, but he chose not to prosecute.

Rome crisis threatens EU leadership

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE lira tumbled yesterday as Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, grappled with a political crisis that threatens to cripple the forthcoming Italian chairmanship of the European Union.

Tomorrow the Chamber of Deputies will debate a motion of no confidence in Signor Dini's Government. The motion was presented last weekend by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, Forza Italia party leader and media magnate.

It is doubtful that he will be able to muster sufficient votes for the motion to be passed, but yesterday a second no-confidence proposal was being prepared by the Marxist *Rifondazione Comunista*. It is expected that Signor Berlusconi and his allies in the "post-Fascist" National Alliance Party will support that motion if their own does not succeed.

In theory, such an alliance would have sufficient numbers to topple the Government. Signor Berlusconi hopes to force a general election in January before or at about the same time as he is scheduled to go on trial on corruption charges. His advisers say the trial could win him sympathy votes.

The political crisis erupted last Thursday when the Senate passed a motion of no confidence in Filippo Mancuso, the Justice Minister over his alleged harassment of anti-corruption magistrates. Signor Mancuso was dismissed and the constitutional court will examine an appeal by him today.



A trader at Milan's beleaguered stock exchange yesterday

Jobs optimism challenged

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN ministers yesterday poured cold water on a Brussels forecast that the drive for a single currency could halve unemployment.

Most finance ministers doubted the wisdom of raising hopes of solving unemployment in the period of austerity required to match the criteria for membership of monetary union in 1999. Kenneth

Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said there was a danger of setting up Europe for a fall.

The new French Finance Minister, Jean Arthuis, said he was concerned that "too much optimism can begin to sound like incantation". M Arthuis added the French public was beginning to understand the price it would

pay for joining monetary union. Euro-enthusiasts argue that the deficit-cutting drive to qualify for monetary union will generate jobs, but a Commission forecast of 11 million new jobs, reducing unemployment to 5 per cent by 2000, was attacked because it supposes growth averaging 3.5 per cent for the rest of the decade.

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Serbs set to press territorial claims

FROM REUTER IN BUELIJNA

THE Bosnian Serb parliament yesterday approved a negotiating platform for peace talks next week, including demands likely to prove unacceptable for the division of Sarajevo and access to the sea.

At a session in Bijeljina, close to the Serbian border, the assembly of the self-styled Bosnian Serb Republic also called for a strip of land in the north that links Serb-held areas in the east and west to be

On Sunday, the parliament agreed to accept international troops on its borders to police an eventual peace accord, but only from Russia "and other friendly nations". The United States, which is behind the peace initiative, is at odds with Russia over the make-up of the peacekeeping force.

The independent Belgrade-based news agency Fonet reported that the 87-member assembly yesterday approved an eight-point programme of constitutional arrangements which have already been agreed in all-party talks. But a list of territorial claims included a reversion of traditional Serb demands which are likely to be rejected by their Muslim and Croat foes.

Access to the Adriatic Sea for the landlocked Bosnian Serb republic would require Croatia to cede a strip of coastline, and both the Muslim-led Bosnian Government and international peace envoys have voiced opposition to any Belgrade-style division of the city of Sarajevo.

Prisoner exchange: A further group of prisoners held by the Bosnian Serb forces and the Bosnian Government were exchanged yesterday at Sarajevo airport. (Michael Newman) The 20 detainees included 10 foreign nationals and 10 Serbs, some of whom had been held for more than two years.

widened, and the return of territory in the northwest captured by Muslim-Croat forces in a recent offensive.

It was unclear how much weight the demands would have, since the Bosnian Serb leadership has been sidelined by Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President, who took over the negotiations on its behalf. However, a Serb official said they had been cleared with Belgrade.



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Final places booked for La Manga test

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24 1995

Howard called for secrecy over Guinness inquiries



Howard wrote to Hurd

THE Department of Trade and Industry said the prosecution authorities were "in cahoots" it was alleged at the start of the second week of the Guinness appeal at the Royal Courts of Justice yesterday.

Anthony Scriven, QC, representing Jack Lyons, drew the Court's attention to numerous documents released by the Crown, including an extract from a letter from Michael Howard, a former DTI minister, to Douglas Hurd, then Home Secretary, dated February 23, 1987. Mr Howard wrote "These are not matters which should be aired in public. It is essential that none of us comment publicly on how the investigation is being run or what stage has been reached, unless it is agreed by all concerned that a statement is desirable. We will certainly observe this rule and I should be grateful if assurances could be sought from the police that they will also do so."

Lord Taylor of Goshford, the Lord Chief Justice, asked Mr Scriven if he was alleging an "improper conspiracy". Mr Scriven said he preferred the word "collusion". Pressed on the subject, Mr Scriven replied: "Conspiracy is a heavy word. He argued that what Mr Howard wanted to keep secret was the fact that the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office lawyers were already working on the case. As Mr Scriven put it: "They were in cahoots. That is apparent."

Mr Scriven quoted from notes taken at a meeting on February 25, 1987 of DTI officials and representatives of the Department of Public Prosecution, including counsel. Advice from counsel was: "It was safer not to approach the inspectors at all to avoid the suggestion of collusion. The reference in a parliamentary answer to close liaison between the inspectors and the DPP must be refused."

On March 6, Jonathan Rickford, the solicitor to the DTI, wrote that "the inspectors are now much more optimistic about breaking Saunders completely. They also feel that they have made excellent progress." Mr Rickford's memo continued: "This development confirms the wisdom of leaving the inspectors to get on with it rather than putting in the police."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3531.5 (-19.9)
Yield	4.7%
FT-SE 100 share	1737.81 (-9.97)
Nikkei	18158.24 (-1.09)
New York	4758.37 (-36.49)*
Dow Jones	584.78 (-2.65)*
S&P Composite	

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.50% (5.50%)
Long Bond	107.7% (105.7%)
Yield	6.38% (6.36%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	6.75% (6.75%)
Life long gilt	104.4% (105.7%)
Future (Dec)	

STERLING	
New York	1.5830* (1.5735)
London	
\$	1.5795 (1.5755)
DM	2.1840 (2.2040)
FF	7.7070 (7.7520)
SFR	1.7748 (1.7988)
Yen	157.40 (158.35)
£ index	82.5 (82.8)

DOLLAR	
London	1.3850* (1.3975)
DM	4.8870* (4.9140)
FF	1.1255* (1.1410)
SFR	99.70* (100.35)
Yen	92.4 (92.4)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$15.75 (\$15.80)

GOLD	
London close	\$382.85 (\$382.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Nadir in talks on PPI's assets

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

COOPERS & LYBRAND, administrators of the collapsed Polly Peck International (PPI), have opened direct talks with Asil Nadir, the fugitive former head of PPI, to see if he can help them to realise assets in Turkey blocked by the courts.

Michael Jordan, Richard Stone and Christopher Morris, all partners at Coopers & Lybrand, have had injunctions taken out under the Turkish criminal code for alleged breach of trust concerning the transfer of funds between PPI companies.

"They have been conducting their defence by 'letters rogatory' using diplomatic channels, which allows them to avoid making appearances in court in Turkey. If they were to lose, they could face custodial sentences."

The injunctions were brought after complaints from Mr Nadir, who left Britain for his native northern Cyprus in 1993 after being charged in England with theft involving £30 million.

After repeated efforts by the administrators to gain control of the assets of PPI in northern Cyprus, and in Turkey, failed, the bulk of the northern Cyprus portfolio was earlier this year sold to Learmed, a company in which Mr Nadir is a director.

Chris Barlow, the Coopers & Lybrand partner in charge of the PPI administration, has just returned from talks in Cyprus with Mr Nadir, after first proposing the meeting in August. The talks were "private and useful," he said.

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Further slowdown predicted Growth rate at weakest for two years

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ECONOMIC growth slowed to an annual 2.4 per cent in the third quarter, its weakest for two years, and looks set to slow further in the coming months.

The first official estimate of the gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter, published yesterday, is the last quarterly figure available to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, before his Budget on November 28 and is expected to reinforce the case for lower interest rates.

Although City analysts largely welcomed the 0.5 per cent rise in GDP in the third quarter, which matched the rise in the previous quarter, as "sustainable" growth, the deceleration in year-on-year growth from 2.8 per cent in the second quarter, after 3.7 per cent in the first, will be difficult for Mr Clarke to brush aside.

Although aggregate growth appears sustainable, the Chancellor, in the run-up to the next general election, could be more concerned about the continued absence of "feel-good" factor among voters, consumers who are still suffering from low earnings growth and a stagnant housing market.

The GDP figures, which were broadly in line with City estimates, showed that economic output, excluding oil and gas, also rose 0.5 per cent in the third quarter to give a 2.4 per cent year-on-year gain. In the previous quarter, it expanded 0.7 per cent for a 2.8 per cent annual increase.

The fourteenth successive quarter-on-quarter increase revealed that the service sector, particularly leisure activities, continues to display good growth and indicated that industrial output managed a rise of about 0.5 per cent.

Some economists still fear that there is a risk of large-scale de-stocking which would prompt production cutbacks, leading to a sharper slowdown in the current quarter. Recent survey evidence points to new orders and sales weakening on both the home and export fronts.

The Treasury's summer forecast put full-year GDP growth this year at 3 per cent.

slowing to 2.75 per cent next year. Some City analysts believe that the 1996 forecast is now looking over-ambitious and will be difficult to meet, while others see the current slowdown as a temporary affair which will be reversed with interest rate cuts, probably early next year.

The data tell us that the economy is slowing, not collapsing," David Gasparro, the Schroders economist, said. The tax cuts expected in the

Gilts held steady but the FT-SE 100 share index of leading shares fell 40 points in reaction to the disappointing economic figures and a weak opening on Wall Street. A late rally, fuelled by a steep rise in Glaxo Wellcome shares, pared back the loss to 19.9 by the London close, leaving the index at 3,531.5.

Market report page 28

Budget are meanwhile expected to lift the consumer's mood, and the economy, next year.

Andrew Smith, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "Today's growth figures leave no room for complacency. The fact that there has been no increase in economic growth for 15 months shows just how low the economy really is."

He said that while the Chancellor boasted of a

"healthy recovery" which would run and run, not only had growth slowed, but public borrowing was higher now than at this time last year and on course to overshoot significantly the government target.

"At the same time, inflation is running at 3.9 per cent, the highest rate since June 1992," Mr Smith said.

But Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the economy had slowed to a more sustainable level. "If you've got sustainable growth, if you've got low inflation, if you've got falling unemployment, what we're actually looking at is some very good figures indeed," she said.

Sterling fell badly against the mark yesterday, but the movement was unrelated to the GDP data. The pound was unable to put up any defence against the mark, sliding in line with other European currencies.

With political uncertainty in Italy and France continuing to stoke unease, the prospect is for a week of currency turbulence which will catch the pound in its backwash.

On the Bank of England's trade-weighted index, the pound closed at 83.5 down from 85.0 on Friday. While it advanced to \$1.5808 from \$1.5755 at the previous close, it plunged 1.34 pence to DM2.1899.

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Sitting comfortably: Sir Richard Sykes said the settlement eliminated uncertainties

Shares in Glaxo rise as lawsuit is settled

By ERIC REGULY

THE stock market value of Glaxo Wellcome rose by almost £2 billion yesterday after Britain's largest pharmaceuticals company reached an out-of-court agreement with America's Genpharm over patent litigation.

Shares of Glaxo Wellcome advanced 52½ p to 849p, lifting the FT-SE 100 index and adding 6.6 per cent to the company's market value. The settlement came hours before a jury trial on the matter was due to start in Baltimore.

Under the agreement, Genpharm will not launch a product containing ranitidine hydrochloride, the active ingredient in Zantac. Glaxo's blockbuster ulcer drug, before mid-1997, when the compound's basic patents expire, or a so-called Form 2 version of the compound until 2002.

Genpharm, which is part of the E Merck Generics Group, also agreed not to market the product in any other country as long as the patents are in force. As part of the settlement, Glaxo will pay Genpharm over the next three years.

Glaxo would not disclose the amount, but said it "is not considered material". Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, said the settlement eliminated "the uncertainties of any jury trial involving highly technical information and complex issues of patent law".

As part of the settlement, litigation between Glaxo and Genpharm in Britain and Canada is being discontinued. SmithKline Beecham said yesterday it was to invest an extra £39 million in its vaccine research and development site in Rixensart, Belgium.

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Market report, page 28

Seaboard to plug into gas

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SEABOARD and Amoco have formed a joint venture to challenge the dominance of British Gas in the supply of gas to families in Britain.

The south coast electricity supplier and its oil and gas producing partner aim to capture two million customers within five years, and a tenth of the £6 billion a year market. Seaboard has ended its earlier partnership with Uniforum to sell gas to industrial and commercial markets. Uniforum has sold its 30 per cent stake in the three-year-old company.

Southern Gas, to Seaboard for an undisclosed sum.

Mike Ambrose, managing director of Amoco Western Europe Gas, said the 50/50 venture, which has yet to be named, was determined to become the leading challenger to British Gas. "We certainly see a fall of at least 10 per cent in household gas prices over the next five years in real terms," he said. "We expect to have to discount below that price if necessary to win the customers from British Gas."

Seaboard is fortuitously

well-placed to gain a foothold in Britain's domestic gas market early in the liberalisation process. Full competition to supply gas will not be allowed nationwide until April 1998.

The phased liberalisation, however, will open a market of 500,000 homes around Bristol to competition next April, and a further 1.5 million homes in southern England, of which one million are Seaboard customers, will be opened up from April 1997.

Tempus, page 28

US breaks off air talks

By GEORGE SIVELL

TALKS on increasing competition on flights between Britain and America were dashed yesterday after the Department of Transport confirmed that the US had broken off the so-called open skies talks after months of debate.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said that despite concessions offered by Britain, America had formally broken off the talks. He said: "I am puzzled and disappointed by the US decision to break off this week's air service talks."

Against the background of an agreement that we should seek a very limited and balanced deal on additional access to Heathrow and Gatwick, the UK made a number of important concessions. None were forthcoming on the US side.

The UK offered the US four new opportunities for passenger flights to London, two at Heathrow and two at Gatwick. Six further opportunities for US cargo flights to fly from the UK to the Far East were added to those already existing. Sir George added:

"The present arrangements are illiberal and restrictive, and are hardly consistent with the US espousal of free trade. America is keen to get the UK to allow more US carriers to use Heathrow and in return, the UK is seeking more access to US destinations for its airlines."

British Airways said last night: "We want to see liberalisation of flights across the Atlantic on a phased and equal basis. We support the British Government's position."

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Ulster set for fastest economic growth for 30 years

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE outlook for economic growth in Northern Ireland is at its brightest for three decades, according to a survey by Coopers & Lybrand, the firm of accountants.

During the 12 months since the paramilitaries announced their ceasefire, the rate of economic growth in the Province has continued to outstrip that of mainland Britain. Both house prices and industrial productivity have risen sharply, and business confidence has surged ahead. Unemployment has fallen by 2 percentage points, twice the rate of the United Kingdom as a whole.

The findings provide evidence of a sea change in attitudes among the Northern Ireland business community which bodes well for the future. When first surveyed by Coopers a year ago, 60 per cent of the 200 business leaders questioned predicted rapid growth in sales.

A year on, only one in four have seen that optimism justified. But according to Roger Kingon, Coopers' partner in charge, businesses remain confident for the future. He says they have "recognised that the ceasefires will not deliver a short-term miracle cure and that real growth must now be a medium-term goal".

A year ago, executives believed that peace would improve their access to export markets, skilled labour and external finance, and enhance productivity and cut security costs.

The impact on labour and external finance has been minimal. But expectations about improvements in export performance have been amply fulfilled, while 45 per cent of all firms have enjoyed an improvement in productivity. Manufacturing output rose by 7 per cent in the year.

Employment rose 2 percentage points, twice the improvement in the UK. Unemployment fell to 86,500, or 11.5 per cent of the workforce. Although still well above the UK rate, it is the lowest level in Northern Ireland for four years.

Expectations of a rise in tourism also proved well-founded. The number of visitors rose by 14 per cent during the first half.

Overall expectations are now for growth in gross domestic product of about 3 per cent this year, comfortably ahead of the mainland.

In many areas, the ceasefire seems to have assisted an economic resurgence that was already underway, such as in the housing market. Some of the buyers pushing up prices are thought to be young entrepreneurs returning from England. Migration from the Province has also stalled, for the first time in decades.

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German economy shows sluggish signs

THE German economy is expected to show flat growth in the coming months, the Economics Ministry said yesterday in a monthly report that was the latest in a series of signs of sluggishness. Earlier this month the ministry adjusted downward its estimate of growth in gross domestic product to an inflation-adjusted 2.5 per cent this year, from the previous prediction of 3 per cent GDP growth.

A summary of the ministry's October monthly report said it expected "quite flat" GDP performance in coming months, without giving a detailed prediction. The ministry said there were good chances for stronger growth in 1996, but for this year the causes of the sluggishness were slower world growth, high wage settlements, a stronger German mark, and a weakening construction market. Germany's six leading economic research institutes are expected to forecast growth this year of 2.25 per cent with the release of the latest twice-annual economic predictions.

Rentokil confirmation

RENTOKIL, the environmental services and property care company, has confirmed the departure of a key director. Clive Thompson, the chief executive, said of Michael Holmes, the regional managing director for North America: "Following the substantial increase in our North American activities, particularly the recent excellent acquisition of Mayne Nickless security businesses in North America which puts us into number six spot in US security, Michael and the company mutually agreed that our ways should part."

Extra interest at Halifax

EXTRA interest will be paid on some Halifax Building Society accounts with effect from February 1996. Cash in accounts which are no longer open to new customers will be transferred to accounts paying a better rate of interest. Halifax Liquid Gold will be the destination for more than 90 per cent of accounts. The move follows the withdrawal of the Paid-Up Shares account. Liquid Gold pays from 1 per cent to 4.70 per cent, depending on the size of the balance, while Paid-Up Shares pays a flat rate of 1 per cent.

Pensions review boost

THE Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for firms that sell direct to the public, yesterday took a significant step forward in its review into the personal pensions mis-selling problem when it announced that Pensions and Actuarial Services (PAS) is to supply vital software to the PIA's Pension Unit. The unit will now be able to carry out its review on past pension transfer and opt-out cases. In a separate move, the PIA also issued a consultative paper on personal pension income withdrawals for people aged 50 or over.

Step up for Sleepy Kids

SLEEPY KIDS, the animation and merchandising group which has ridden high on Budge the Little Helicopter, the Duchess of York's creation, is preparing for a full market listing. The company currently trades on the Unlisted Securities Market. Williams de Broe will replace Shaw & Co, which has been broker for Sleepy Kids for nearly two years. Singer & Friedlander will be financial adviser. Market value stands at £13.2 million, but the company is likely to win a market capitalisation much higher.

ScotPower acceptances

SCOTSHPOWER said yesterday that its £1.1 billion offer for Manweb, the regional electricity company, had received 93.5 per cent acceptances, enough to allow it to force the remaining shareholders to sell their holdings. Compulsory purchase orders will be issued over the next two weeks, allowing completion by early December. Manweb shareholders can take 99p in cash, or a combination of ScottishPower shares and cash. The purchase marks the first merger between an electricity company and water company.

US banks 'in merger talks'

IN THE latest sign of the merger fever sweeping the banking industry, NationsBank and BankAmerica were reported to have held talks about merging to create the nation's largest bank. Both banks declined to comment on the reports.

While industry sources played down the likelihood of such a deal, the stocks of both banking companies rose after the reports. BankAmerica, based in San Francisco, is currently the nation's second-largest bank, and NationsBank, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, ranks third. Bank mergers have taken off at a rapid pace this year, with Chemical Banking and Chase Manhattan setting a \$10 billion merger that will create the country's largest bank once completed.

A merger between NationsBank and BankAmerica would create the largest bank in the country, with assets of about \$400 billion. BankAmerica's San Francisco neighbour, Wells Fargo, launched a hostile \$10 billion bid for First Interstate Bancorp in Los Angeles last week.

Bounty hunt by society savers hits unit trusts

By ROBERT MILLER

INVESTORS looking for potential bonuses from building society mergers and flotations have been blamed for the £58 million fall in September's monthly retail sales of unit trusts. The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) said yesterday there is evidence that bounty-hunting investors were in part responsible for a drop in net retail business to £218 million.

Autif cited the latest building society figures that show net inflows last month of £903 million, the second highest of the year, but still some way short of July's £956 million.

Peter Williams, head of research at the Building Societies Association, said: "We have studied the inflow figures and can see no systematic evidence that an excessive amount of savers' money is chasing merger speculation, although there have been huge inflows in specific cases. Many of the accounts already have the minimum amount to qualify for a bonus in them. We think the BSA inflow figures reflect the fact there are so few alternatives available."

Net sales of the new-style corporate bond Personal Equity Plans helped boost September's sales to £279 million and the total amount of money under management in all 1,627 unit trusts to £107.8 billion. The number of unitholder accounts rose to 6.6 million (6.5 million in August).

Peps, in general, continue to provide managers with a handy tax-free wrapper with which to promote their unit trusts. The value of Peps-linked funds has risen from £11.1 billion a year ago to £15.8 billion at the end of September. Within the overall Peps figures the new corporate bond Peps have attracted 30,000 investors and last month accounted for 26 per cent of the total net sales.

Commenting on the latest figures Philip Warland, the director-general of Autif, said: "Peps continue to be an extremely popular way into the unit trust market. Leading the way, as last month, are the new corporate bond Peps. It takes time for the new products to take root, but the benefit of corporate bond Peps are now beginning to be understood."

There are, however, fears among some unit groups that corporate bond Peps may have been taken up by anxious investors for whom they may not be the most suitable. Institutional net sales of units fell £10 million to £435 million, 28 per cent of which represented sales in Japanese trusts and another 26 per cent in Far East funds, excluding Japan. Pension and insurance funds invested another £120 million in Japanese unit trusts, the highest since March 1994.

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Dealers in Tokyo have seen the big brokers stay in the black

Mixed fortunes for Japan's brokers

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

JAPAN'S "big four" brokers — Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi — reported profits for the six months to September 30, while nine out of the ten smaller houses suffered losses.

The four, plus Kokusai Securities, a second-tier broker, remained in the black thanks to profits on bond transactions.

The other second-tier houses suffered losses, blaming slack stock business in the first quarter of their year.

Analysts said the gap between big and small brokerages has been widening as both institutional and individual investors, as well as foreigners, are becoming increasingly selective in placing orders with Japanese firms.

Nomura reported profits of 32.16 billion yen (£204 million) in the first half, up 42.9 per cent on the same period last year.

Daiwa Securities made 27.53 billion yen in the first half, up 278 per cent, and said it seemed that the worst period of the securities industry slump was over.

Nikko unveiled 25.53 billion yen, up 995.7 per cent, while Yamaichi posted 5.21 billion yen.

Kokusai reported profit of 3.15 billion yen against a loss of 1.38 billion yen.

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Profits flow for US oil giants

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S oil companies experienced one of their best third quarters in recent years as Exxon, the world's largest oil company, announced record profits for the period and Shell and Mobil also unveiled buoyant results.

Exxon's 30 per cent increase to \$1.5 billion from \$1.1 billion last year was better than the stock market had expected. The best performing business was chemicals, which more than doubled last year's third-quarter results as margins on chemical products improved.

A fall of about half a dollar in the price per barrel of crude oil was offset by higher production of both crude and natural gas. Sales of petroleum products also rose, although profit margins came under heavy pressure.

For the first nine months of 1995, Exxon's profits soared by 50 per cent, thanks largely to a higher average oil price over the period of about \$1.50 above last year's levels.

Shell also reported a 30 per cent profit rise to \$431 million, after adjustments, for its US operations which gained strongly from higher margins and sales in chemicals. Oil and gas exploration and production were slightly down on last year because of lower prices, but the result was still the highest third-quarter profit in eight years. Over the past nine months, Shell has seen an even healthier profit increase of 41 per cent.

Mobil announced the steepest quarterly profit rise, however, of 41 per cent to \$744 million, an increase of \$216 million over last year. It, too, benefited from a strong performance in its chemicals business. Cash operating expenses were down \$100 million, reflecting the results of restructuring and cost control programmes.

"We are striving to increase shareholder value by getting more from our existing assets and by making investments for growth," said Lucio Noto, the chairman. Mobil said that if adjustments such as a \$42 million favourable court settlement were taken into account, its result for the third quarter was £786 million.

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Cola leak angers Virgin

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE cola wars took on a more bitter flavour yesterday as Virgin and a market research company hunted the source of a leak of information on market share in the highly competitive soft-drinks sector.

Nielsen, which conducts market research on behalf of drinks producers among others, said it had not received a request to put its data into the public domain — as would be usual if a company wished to publicise findings it had commissioned. Market research commissioned by one retail company will inevitably contain information regarding its rivals.

Both Coca-Cola and Pepsi denied releasing information which pointed to Virgin having a 5.7 per cent share of the cola market, a figure which has nearly halved since its high-profile launch last year.

The share falls short of Virgin's initial projections and, if non-take-home markets are included, Virgin Cola's sales fall to 1 per cent of the total and are expected to amount to about half a billion cans this year.

Virgin complained that it was again being targeted by established rivals who did not welcome new players.

"The same thing happened when Virgin Atlantic was launched. There seems to be a deliberate effort to put down the product," said a spokesman.

Virgin, which at the weekend was criticised by the Bradford and Bingley Building Society for comparative advertising, said that the cola division was on course to make profits of £1 million in its first year.

Latest Nielsen figures for the take-home market put Virgin's share at 3.1 per cent against 19.5 per cent for Pepsi and 46 per cent for Coca-Cola.

Virgin, which has supermarket sales through Tesco only, trails substantially in the advertising stakes. Its spending of £4 million in the UK over the year is vastly overshadowed by that of Coca-Cola and Pepsi, which are at least four times as much.

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Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia S	2.21	Bank	2.04
Barclays	10.40	Barclays	10.40
Belgium F	48.13	Belgium F	48.13
Canada S	2.94	Canada S	2.94
Credit Ly	0.74	Credit Ly	0.74
Danmark D	9.15	Danmark D	9.15
France F	7.49	France F	7.49
Germany D	2.26	Germany D	2.26
Greece P	370.02	Greece P	370.02
Hong Kong S	10.82	Hong Kong S	10.82
India P	1.02	India P	1.02
Italy L	5.10	Italy L	5.10
Japan Y	282.00	Japan Y	282.00
Malta M	172.00	Malta M	172.00
Netherlands G	0.51	Netherlands G	0.51
Norway N	9.10	Norway N	9.10
Portugal P	2.21	Portugal P	2.21
Spain P	10.28	Spain P	10.28
Sweden S	242.00	Sweden S	242.00
Switzerland F	1.75	Switzerland F	1.75
Taiwan T	11.17	Taiwan T	11.17
UK S	1.75	UK S	1.75
USA S	1.62	USA S	1.62

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Reuters Bank 91.2. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Budget quandary for the Chancellor □ Millennium Commission picks its winners □ Out of the ruins of Polly Peck

Fresh fruit or rotten vegetables?

□ A GOVERNING politician's job is to put a reassuring gloss on any set of statistics, however dire, while those across the Chamber are paid to throw as much oil and rotten vegetables as come to hand. Both camps can draw much ammunition from the latest set of GDP figures.

Kenneth Clarke, in Panglossian mode, will point to a British economy expanding but not too fast, in line with sustainable long-term growth and raising no need for an interest rate rise. The lowest year-on-year gain in GDP since 1993 suggests a quarterly growth rate, stripping out volatile oil production, running at half the level of last year and offering no threat of the economy overheating, a line that will play well in the Chancellor's monthly chat with Eddie George.

Mr Clarke will probably expand his argument to take in a worldwide economy likewise progressing at a suitably sedate pace. The Americans are pulling in imports again, suggesting a resumption in growth, the slow-down on the Continent shows no signs of a fresh recession and even the Japanese, in spite of their beaunted banks, seem to have turned the corner again. What better backdrop to prepare a Budget that will perform the

balancing act of cutting taxes while keeping down borrowings? Unfortunately, the view that will come from the Eyres on the Opposition benches is a more convincing one. The market jitters yesterday had more to do with events on the foreign exchanges and on Wall Street last week. Most observers now accept that the next move in interest rates will be down rather than up, even if concerns over gilts and the attitude of the Bank of England will push that move into next year.

But back in the real world, the gap between winners and losers is widening. Growth is continuing in the service sector but at the expense of manufacturing, constrained by weak activity overseas and high levels of built-up stocks. Sectors such as distribution, hotels and catering are expanding, but a difficult housing market and low rates of pay growth are not helping those that actually produce the goods, as opposed to those who ship them around the country or simply



Imagination and a Touche Ross collection of builders, property companies and landscape gardeners. The Millennium Commission has decided one of them will receive an expected £100 million of lottery funds to go towards the exhibition centre.

The scheme is part of the commission's run-up to the year 2000 and counts as a priority some way ahead of the 12 landmark projects now under discussion, each of which can expect to receive £50 million of lottery money.

Time was, the country needed a new fun fair and someone went and built one, and their return

was the cash that came in from grateful punters. At the same time, one of the clear forerunners for the millennium jamboree, the Great Exhibition of 1851, was funded by private capital, and highly profitable for the operators.

Now it seems we have to rely on the lottery, which pays 5.6p for every pound received to the commission. Just what the exhibition will comprise is deliberately vague at this stage, but it certainly looks like a money-spinner for whichever of the four the ghostly finger eventually lights upon. An estimated 15 million people will visit each year, as against three million who go to Alton Towers, for example, making it by far and away the country's biggest paid-for tourist attraction.

Four sites are being considered. The most obvious one is the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, which already enjoys the necessary transport links, but two others are the notorious London traffic black-

spots of Stratford and Greenwich. Perhaps the Millennium Exhibition could take over the Royal Naval College there, now surplus to requirements, as a fitting symbol of the lottery's pre-eminence as a cultural icon?

Second coming of Asil Nadir

□ FOR those who can remember as far back as May 1993, and a certain desperate flight to northern Cyprus, the events surrounding the former head of Polly Peck International have an increasingly surreal air to them. Mr Nadir, as we had better get used to calling him again, stands every chance of stepping onto the tarmac at Heathrow a free man.

He already has control of most of his empire within the unrecognised republic, those much-vaunted orange groves that founded the Polly Peck phenomenon. He could, if a deal being toyed with by the receivers goes through, end up with the

group's business interests in mainland Turkey again.

Now we learn that Coopers & Lybrand, which thought it was doing the work of the just in pursuing those Polly Peck assets, — and which was shot at, never forget, in the process — faces criminal prosecution in Turkey. Some of its accountants could end up in an Istanbul court just as the luckless Serious Fraud Office heads for London's High Court and a showdown there with a vengeful Mr Nadir.

The SFO has survived some catastrophes in its time, and the business world has seen some extraordinary Lazaruses come back from the dead. But the new zenith of Mr Nadir puts most such revenants in the shade.

Taxing patience

□ COOPERS & LYBRAND is bemoaning the lack of investment generated by Venture Capital Trusts and the Enterprise Investment Scheme, two bright ideas from earlier Budgets, in spite of the 20 per cent tax relief they offer on entry. The solution, the accountant urges the Chancellor this time, is to double that relief. More sensible, surely, to accept that they have not worked, scrap them, and start again?

MCI slumps into the red after taking \$831m charge

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

MCI, the US telecommunications group that is 20 per cent owned by British Telecom, has reported a loss of \$240 million for the third quarter after taking a charge of \$831 million against asset writedowns and restructuring.

The result compares with profits of \$220 million last time. However, without the special charge it would have seen a rise in profits to \$275 million as revenues rose strongly, the company said.

The charge covers \$216 million for reorganisation costs, including 3,000 redundancies, and \$520 million for writedowns on old communications systems. MCI also took a \$95 million writedown

on investments in other companies.

Despite the loss, MCI's businesses were functioning at full capacity, with revenues climbing from \$3.4 billion to \$3.8 billion, fuelled by growth across all segments of its market. Gerald Taylor, president and chief operating officer, said: "MCI demonstrated exceptional revenue and volume growth in the third quarter. We will continue to leverage our core strength — marketing and merchandising, intelligent network, high volume transactional billing and customer service — to capitalise on new market opportunities."

Concert, the global telecom

service for multinationals, which MCI runs with British Telecom, reached a customer base of more than 2,000 for the first time. The service is the first co-operative enterprise between the companies since BT paid \$4.3 billion for its interest in MCI last autumn in one of the biggest strategic moves so far in the international telecoms industry.

MCI's other major joint venture is an on-line computer service which it shares with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. The telecoms company holds a 13.5 per cent stake in News Corp, making it the first major outside shareholder in the group. The two companies

have invested \$400 million in developing the on-line service as a successor to News Corp's Delphi system.

MCI also saw big gains in its traditional markets, including long distance and international business calling, during the quarter. International business calls rose by 50 per cent.

Newer services also performed strongly, including data transmission, which grew by 30 per cent. The paging and cellular phone businesses also did well. There are now more than 320,000 customers for the paging service and more than 300,000 mobile phone customers after MCI's purchase of Nationwide Cellular Service.

Thorn cuts debt with French sale

THORN EMI yesterday reduced its debt by more than a quarter after selling its stake in SGS-Thomson, the French microelectronics company (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which is preparing to demerge its music and electronics businesses, sold its remaining holding of 2.8 per cent in the businesses for £95.6 million after having disposed of a smaller interest worth £24 million last year.

Thorn denied that the money would form part of its defence to shore up the balance sheet in advance of the demerger which is expected next year. At the end of March Thorn had debts of £363 million.

Poison pill threat over Royal Bank

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PETER WOOD, the founder of Royal Bank of Scotland's Direct Line telephone insurance operation, is threatening to become a "poison pill" if the bank is taken over. He has said he may leave and set up a rival operation if he was not happy with the new owners.

There has been widespread speculation that the bank is a bid target as part of the rapid consolidation in the UK financial services sector.

Mr Wood has said he would also use Privilege, the joint venture he set up in conjunction with RBS, as a poison pill. He owns 30 per cent of Privilege, but has 51 per cent of the voting rights.

Dr George Mathewson, chief executive of RBS, said yesterday: "We do not feel

under any takeover threat."

An RBS spokesman yesterday also confirmed that Mr Wood is considering setting up a new insurance venture like Direct Line in the US, but there were no plans at present.

A Direct Line spokeswoman said that although Mr Wood's Direct Line service contract expires in 1997, he remains committed to RBS and to Direct Line. She said: "Even if his interests diversify with a venture in the US, the link with RBS and Direct Line will be maintained."

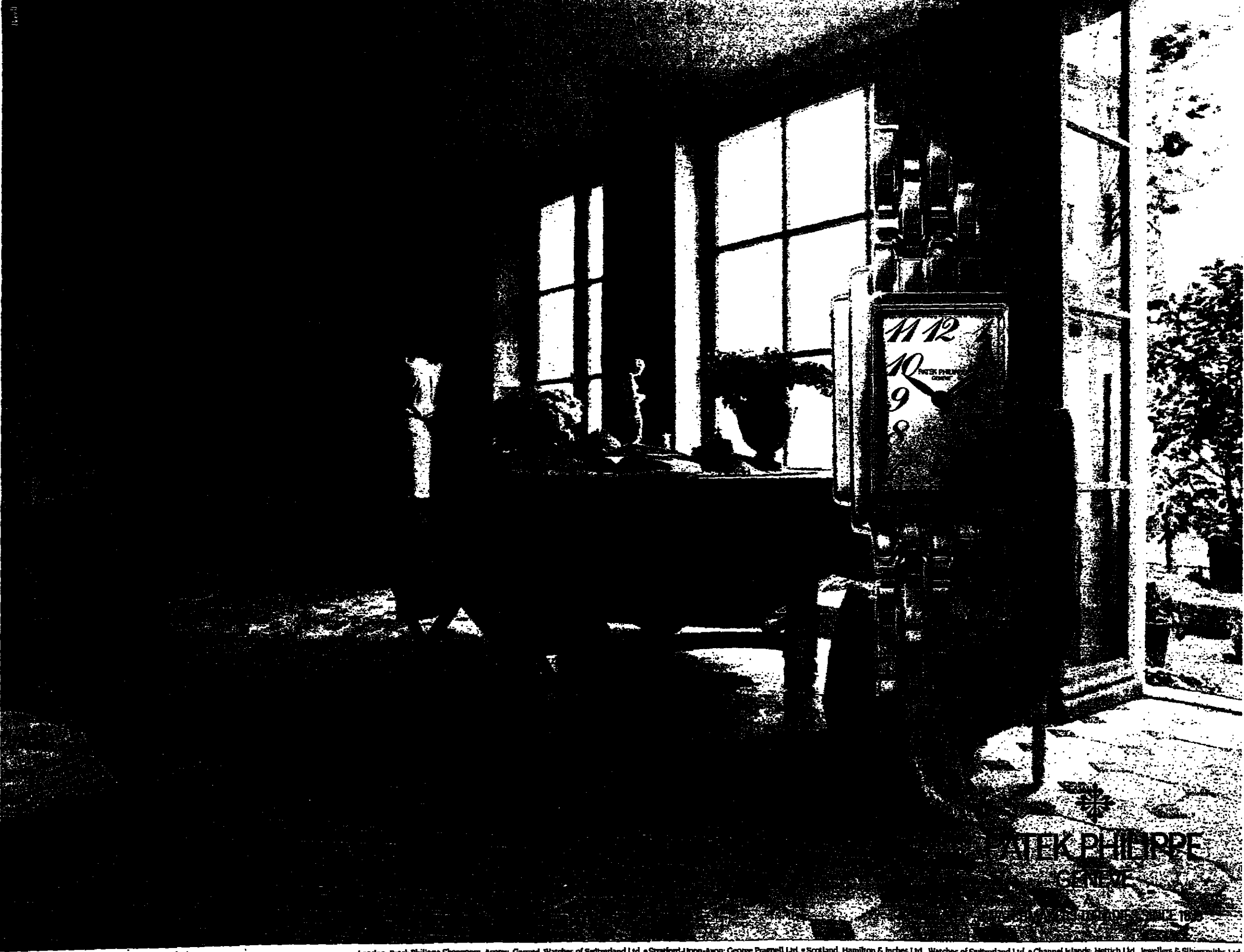
Under US law, RBS, which owns a US retail bank, is prohibited from owning an insurance operation. However, it would be able to make an investment in a venture set up by Mr Wood.

Bid fightback by Country Casuals board

COUNTRY CASUALS, the clothing retailer that is contesting a takeover bid from its former chief executive, launches its defence document on Thursday (Christine Buckley writes).

The chain has already formally rejected a bid valuing the company at £26.8 million by John Shannon, the company's ex-chief executive, who quit last year in a dispute over contract lengths. It said that the 140p a share offer, made by Mr Shannon's Ciro Holdings and backed by venture capital and debt, undervalues Country Casuals.

Mr Shannon, who has an 18.8 per cent stake in Country Casuals, has won the backing of Phillips & Drew Fund Management, which has a holding of 11.1 per cent of the company. The share price yesterday stood at 139p.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Glaxo's agreement in US provides tonic for shares

THE London stock market flinched dangerously with the 3,500 level before recovering its poise after some enterprising deal-making in the US by Glaxo Wellcome.

Renewed weakness in the dollar and sterling undermined both gilts and US Treasury bonds, bringing another volatile performance on financial markets.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was down more than 40 points after heavy selling of the financial future ahead of tomorrow's gilt auction. London's position was not helped by opening losses on the Dow Jones Industrial Average in New York, but it regained its composure to halve earlier losses. The FT-SE 100 index closed 19.9 points down at 3,531.5. Trading was thin, with 523 million shares traded.

Glaxo Wellcome stood out with a rise of 52.5p to 849p on news that it had settled a legal dispute relating to patents covering ranitidine hydrochloride, an ingredient of Zantac, its best-selling anti-ulcer drug. By the close of business, more than 23 million Glaxo Wellcome shares had changed hands. The argument with E. Merck Generics was settled just hours before both sides were due to appear in a US court.

Merck has now agreed not to launch any product containing the chemical before July 1997 when the basic patent expires. In return, Glaxo Wellcome will pay the company an unspecified sum over three years.

Rival Zeneca moved ahead 20p to £11.96 in the hope that Glaxo Wellcome had found a solution to long-running and costly disputes about patents. SmithKline Beecham firmed 5p to 657p before figures this week.

Northumbrian Water featured with a rise of 13p to 998p, hoping that Lyonnais des Eaux will be given the go-ahead by the Government to proceed with its proposed bid after being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the spring.

In July, Orvat, the industry regulator, said the bid would be blocked unless the French cut water charges by up to 15 per cent. The bidder is expected to offer up to £11 a share, valuing Northumbrian at £765 million.

The bid for Northumbrian is regarded as a test case, with



Newspapers threat from Tesco sent WH Smith shares lower

other water predators delaying their move until the outcome is known. But some brokers remain sceptical, claiming that giving the all-clear to Lyonnais des Eaux is unlikely to precipitate a series of bids for other water companies.

WH Smith, the retailer, saw its price drop 12p to 375p as its key newspaper and

said such a move would enable it to utilise its marketing expertise and offer greater flexibility to customers. Brokers fear WH Smith will now have to cut costs and become more efficient. Tesco finished 3p lower at 299p.

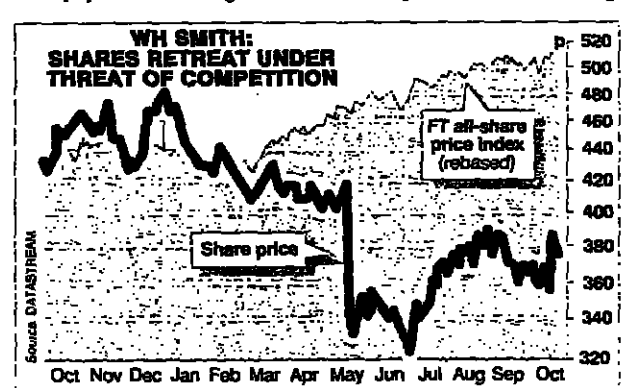
Royal Bank of Scotland succumbed to profit-taking after several weeks of speculative buying on talk that the

Reports that Ford wants its suppliers to freeze prices for the next five years left Lucas Industries 6p lower at 186p. GKN 16p at 776p and Laird Group 6p at 414p. But brokers say such demands are not new. The companies have coped with similar demands in the past and are now leaner and fitter.

magazine operations came under threat of direct competition from Tesco, the supermarket chain. Tesco is hoping to strike a deal with newspaper publishers enabling it to distribute newspapers direct to its stores, a move which is likely to dent Smith's figures.

Last year, WH Smith made profits of £112 million, of which £37 million came from newspaper wholesaling. Tesco

group could soon find itself the subject of a bid. The profit-taking was sparked by reports over the weekend that Peter Wood, the man who built up its Direct Line insurance business, now wants to expand in the US. He is likely to pursue the idea if RBS becomes the target of a bid. Direct Line is now Britain's biggest car insurer, and would be sought after by the other leading



WH SMITH: SHARES RETREAT UNDER THREAT OF COMPETITION

companies in the banking and insurance sector.

Meyer International, the timber group, slipped 1p to 340p, still awaiting the outcome of bid talks with Harrison & Crossfield. Last week a line of 1.13 million shares went through, 4p above the ruling market price of 360p. This has led to suggestions that a deal may be imminent.

Elsewhere on the bid front, Dobson Park Industries saw 1p slip from its price at 124p after it rejected the possibility of higher terms from Harnischfeger, the US mining equipment group. The current offer values Dobson Park at 110p, but Harnischfeger says it is willing to raise the price to 122.2p a share, including a forecast final dividend of 3.3p a share. Harnischfeger said it would only be prepared to make such a move if the Dobson Park board agreed the offer. Dobson has declined, saying the terms undervalue the company.

Tring International, the compact discs group, which has seen its value halve in the past week, continued to retreat. It finished 8p down at 44p, stretching the loss of the past week to 58p. This follows a profits warning and boardroom reshuffle.

GILT EDGED: Prices were soon lowered as early sellers showed their hands in the futures pit after the weekend setback for US Treasury bonds. The lower than expected Gross Domestic Product made little impact, with investors remaining cautious before tomorrow's auction. Last month's £3 billion auction was barely covered, but traders are becoming increasingly confident that this one will be fully subscribed.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished 7 1/2 lower at £104 1/2, as the total number of contracts completed reached 50,000.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dropped 7 1/2 to 99 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 7 1/2 lower at £101 1/2.

NEW YORK: US shares were sharply lower as weakness in the dollar, bond market and European stock markets brought profit-taking. At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial average was down 36.49 points to 4,758.37, with declining shares leading advancing issues five to two.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4758.37 (-36.49)
S&P Composite	584.78 (-2.08)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei average	18156.24 (-1.09)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	6880.53 (-14.71)
Amsterdam:	
AEX	449.17 (-5.68)
Sydney:	
ASX	2089.3 (-17.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2107.42 (-63.07)
Singapore:	
Straits	Closed
Brussels:	
General	7700.90 (-48.46)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1721.14 (-19.38)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	685.50 (-15.00)

London:	
FT 100	3531.5 (-19.9)
FT-SE 100	3531.5 (-19.9)
FT-SE 250	3912.5 (-27.0)
FT-SE 350	1786.6 (-10.4)
FT-SE 1000	1332.0 (-8.43)
FT-AI-Share	1737.1 (-9.7)
FT Non Financials	1845.1 (-4.83)
FT Financials	1108.8 (-0.47)
FT Govt Sec	92.6 (-0.2)
Barrings	2561
SEAQ Volume	523.0m
US\$ (Dussman)	162.44 (-0.41)
£/DM	1.5808 (-0.001)
German Mark	2.1899 (-0.0134)
Exchange index	83.5 (-0.1)
Index of England official core (HPI)	1.788
ESPR	1.0489
RPI	150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1997=100
RPIX	149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Cons Coal (50)	65	-1
Euro Sales Ltd	125	-5
German Str Wts	18	-1
Hay & Robertson	38	-3
Indip Radio	114	-3
Multimedia (45)	60	-1
Murray V	103	-2
Pemberton	60	-3
Pictet British (100)	103	-3
Preston Nth (400)	400	-
Upton & Stn Wts	1	-

RIGHTS ISSUES

Anglo-Barr n/p (105)	5
Baris n/p (16)	2
Fortis n/p (490)	91
RMC n/p (950)	128

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Holders Tech	114p (+10p)
Tespec	850p (+14p)
Glaxo Wellcome	849p (+52.5p)
Go Ahead	280p (+7p)
Celtech	467p (+7p)
Soot TV	508p (+7p)
Kwik Save	681p (+7p)
FALLS:	
HSBC	933p (-17p)
Nat West	637p (-8p)
Standard Char	485p (-16p)
Barr	655p (-8p)
ICI	709p (-10p)
Danka Bc Sys	578p (-17p)
Delta	405p (-8p)
Br Aerospace	725p (-48p)
GN	1040p (-10p)
British	691p (-4p)
Com Union	622p (-10p)
Lloyds Abbey	453p (-14p)
Sun Alliance	382p (-9p)
Legal & Gen	648p (-7p)
Micro Focus	353p (-13p)
Rolls & Nott	277p (-10p)
Courtauld Text	417p (-15p)
Wembley	342p (-11p)
WH Smith	375p (-12p)
Br Land	383p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 33

Seeboard: it's a gas

BOBBING in the wake created by the takeover battles for regional electricity companies is Seeboard, which yesterday vigorously waved the flag of diversification. The South East-based electricity company has established a joint venture with Amoco, the American oil company, aimed at supplying a large share of domestic gas consumption when the market becomes a free-for-all in 1998.

Seeboard already has a gas distribution business but, like all the suppliers set up to challenge the British Gas monopoly, its venture with UtiliCorp has been a mere gadfly, buying about in the scraps of the commercial and industrial market where margins have been shredded. Over the past three years, Southern Gas made profits of £3 million and it will now be subsumed into the Amoco joint venture. The interesting feature

of Seeboard's gas vehicle is that the deal struck with Amoco leaves the joint venture with very little risk. An initial £5 million of equity will cover set-up and marketing costs, but the big issue of upstream gas supply is left squarely in the lap of Amoco. The joint venture will not enter into take or pay contracts with Amoco, thus avoiding any exposure to the volatility of gas prices, a risk which is currently causing a mammoth headache for British Gas.

Take-or-pay contracts provide security for gas producers who need to square their huge investments with long-term customers but, given Britain's current oversupply of gas, Amoco is lucky to have a buyer at all. Seeboard has one million customers in the catchment area of the next trial domestic gas market and Amoco would like to supply them.

Glaxo Wellcome

RECENT tummy troubles for investors with Glaxo shares look to be over after yesterday's news of a settlement over the principal challenge to the Zantac patent. It would be wrong to exaggerate the weakness - Glaxo's price had risen by a third since its £6 January low.

The main uncertainty was litigation. The deal with Gepharm removes the possibility of a month-long court case involving thousands of pages of technical evidence at the end of which a lay jury would attempt to pronounce in favour or against the validity of the patent. To resolve ownership of the right to one of the world's most profitable drugs in this way would be like flipping a coin.

Fortunately, Glaxo has been able to secure contin-

Japanese brokers

THE gap is widening between the big four Japanese brokers and their second division rivals. Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi - and only one of the ten second-tier firms, Kokusai - managed to report first-half profits.

The other nine firms suffered losses. This was due in part to slack equity business - daily average turnover of the first section on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was only 200 billion yen (£12 billion) in the April-June period. Most firms need a daily stock market turnover of between 350 billion yen and 400 billion yen just to break even, although the big four firms said they would break even at lower levels of about 250 billion yen.

The collapse of Barings did nothing to help investor confidence. Smaller brokers also suffered. Japanese investors as well as those from overseas are wary to place their money with any firm lacking

Northern Ireland

OPTIMISM about investment in Northern Ireland continues, in spite of a lack of evidence that the cease-fire has done anything concrete to boost the economy. To-day's report from Cooper & Lybrand shows a remarkably high level of business confidence, but so far few signs that peace is putting more cash in the province's tills.

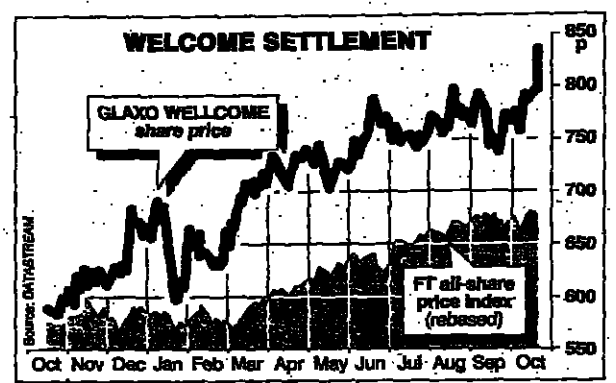
These are still early days. Anyone keen to invest in Ireland might consider putting their money in Emerald Investment Trust, to be launched by Rea Brothers next month, which is raising

£40 million to create an all-Ireland fund.

The rationale for investing, however, is not chasing the peace dividend but a play on Ireland's strong economic growth trend - the Republic's GDP has risen faster than the UK over the past 5-6 years, and the outperformance is set to continue. However, the Irish stock market is trading on a multiple of less than 11 times 1995 earnings, compared with about 14 times for the UK stock market.

Part of the problem facing investors is that the Irish stock market is dominated by a few big companies - Simurfit, CRH - which are more affected by international developments than the local economy. Emerald will attempt to resolve that problem by allocating 20 per cent to mature, unquoted companies in sectors that may respond to a peace dividend, such as tourism and housing.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER



WELCOME SETTLEMENT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
Commodity	Change
Cocoa	
Dec	912.00 (+10.00)
Mar	912.00 (+10.00)
Jul	912.00 (+10.00)
Oct	912.00 (+10.00)
Robusta Coffee	
Dec	2425.00 (+20.00)
Mar	2425.00 (+20.00)
Jul	2425.00 (+20.00)
Oct	2425.00 (+20.00)
White Sugar	
Dec	340.00 (+2.00)
Mar	340.00 (+2.00)
Jul	340.00 (+2.00)
Oct	340.00 (+2.00)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK	
Commodity	Change
Cattle	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)
Pigs	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
Commodity	Change
Copper	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)
Aluminium	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

LIFE OPTIONS

LIFE OPTIONS	
Commodity	Change
Gold	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)
Silver	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	
Commodity	Change
FT-SE 100	
Dec	3531.5 (-19.9)
Mar	3531.5 (-19.9)
Jul	3531.5 (-19.9)
Oct	3531.5 (-19.9)
FT-SE 250	
Dec	3912.5 (-27.0)
Mar	3912.5 (-27.0)
Jul	3912.5 (-27.0)
Oct	3912.5 (-27.0)

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

MONEY RATES (%)

MONEY RATES (%)	
Commodity	Change
3 month	5.00
6 month	5.00
12 month	5.00
3 month	5.00
6 month	5.00
12 month	5.00

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)	
Commodity	Change
3 month	5.00
6 month	5.00
12 month	5.00
3 month	5.00
6 month	5.00
12 month	5.00

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bull & Co)

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bull & Co)	
Commodity	Change
Gold	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)
Silver	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	
Commodity	Change
Spot	1.5808
1 month	1.5808
3 month	1.5808
6 month	1.5808
12 month	1.5808

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

DOYNE

DOYNE	
Commodity	Change
Gold	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)
Silver	
Dec	101.00 (+1.00)
Mar	101.00 (+1.00)
Jul	101.00 (+1.00)
Oct	101.00 (+1.00)

Source: Reuters. All prices are in pence per cwt. unless otherwise stated.

Daimler offshoot to cut 9,000 jobs and sell factories

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

DASA, the troubled aerospace arm of Daimler-Benz, Germany's industrial flagship, is to cut nearly 9,000 jobs and sell off a number of its plants in Germany by 1998 in an effort to avert disaster.

Manfred Bischoff, the chief executive of Dasa, said that the aerospace company, which is British Aerospace's partner in the European Airbus consortium, had no choice but to "concentrate our efforts on remaining competi-

tive, even under adverse conditions, if there is to be a future for the German aircraft industry".

He told a news conference in Munich that the effect of selling plants and reducing the German workforce would be a cost saving of more than DM500 million a year.

Dasa, Europe's biggest aerospace company, made a DM1.6 billion operating loss in the first half this year on sales of DM5.5 billion. But

Herr Bischoff said Dasa, the main source of Daimler-Benz's current woes, could still lose more than DM2 billion this year, even though he thought it unlikely. A return to profit is not foreseen until 1997.

Jürgen Schrempf, the former head of Dasa, who took over as management board chairman of Daimler-Benz this year, has demanded that Herr Bischoff extract more than a DM1 billion a year in profit from aerospace involvement by 1998. Last year, the division showed a net loss of DM438 million on a turnover of DM17.3 billion.

Hit by the weak dollar, in which most of its business is priced, Dasa had been rumoured to be planning much bigger cuts, possibly eliminating as many as 15,000 jobs from its operations. The cuts announced by Herr Bischoff will reduce Dasa's workforce, excluding its embattled Dutch subsidiary Fokker, to just over 40,000.

Herr Bischoff said that the aim of the cost-cutting exercise was to allow all parts of Dasa to remain competitive in the world market at a dollar rate of DM1.35. This compared with the current market rate of DM1.38.

Dasa said it plans to sell German plants at Laupheim, Speyer and Peissenberg and was considering disposals at Ludwigsfelde and Dresden. Particularly deep cuts in the workforce will be made among those employed in the aircraft and propulsion systems operations.

The company is holding talks with the BMW-Rolls-Royce aero-engine joint venture concerning cooperation with Dasa's MTU.

Analysts in Frankfurt were unimpressed by the restructuring and await more details of the plans, drawn up under its "Dolores" project, to be announced next month.

Herr Bischoff said the restructuring would also affect Fokker, which cut 1,700 jobs earlier this year and is seeking support from the Dutch Government to ensure its survival.

Minister warns cable operators

BY ERIC REGULY

IAN TAYLOR, the Minister of Science and Technology, has warned the cable-TV and telecommunications industries to beware of monopolistic practices as the information superhighway takes shape.

Speaking yesterday at the European Cable Convention in London, he said: "As the market develops, I want competition policy to bite... we're looking at this from the customer's point of view."

Some observers considered Mr Taylor's remarks a veiled threat against News International, which owns The Times and 40 per cent of BSkyB, the main provider of TV programming to the cable companies. BSkyB also dominates the "conditional access" technology needed to unscramble the coded TV signals.

Mr Taylor mentioned programming and conditional access as potential areas of concern in the future, but made no reference to BSkyB or any other European broadcaster. He said the Government "will soon be setting out its proposals for the details of the conditional access licensing regime".

Some cable companies have complained to the Office of Fair Trading about BSkyB's rate card after TeleWest and Nynex, the two largest cable companies, signed long-term contracts with BSkyB that prevent them from setting up competing national sports and movie channels. TeleWest, Nynex and Bell Cablemedia, three of the largest cable companies, announced that they have established a "media laboratory" to develop video-on-demand services for the cable industry. The trials will begin in January.



Taylor: competition



Chris Patten says the colony could become the richest city in the world next century

Patten acts to restore belief in future of Hong Kong

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

CHRIS PATTEN, Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday sought to dispel recent gloom over the economic prospects for the Crown colony after it is handed back to China in 1997.

In London for a business conference, he expressed his confidence that the foundations had been laid for a

"prosperous future" that could, next century, make Hong Kong the "richest city in the world, combining economic freedom and human dignity".

His upbeat message contrasts with recent prophecies of political and economic difficulties after 1997, which have prompted a number of prominent Chinese businessmen in Hong Kong to set up a special organisation to promote the colony's international image.

"A city which is regularly killed off in the headlines is still remarkably sprightly," Mr Patten said, noting that Hong Kong's six million inhabitants produced the equivalent of 26 per cent of the gross domestic product of the whole of China, with its 1.2 billion population.

Big construction projects, such as the international airport, Chep Lap Kok, represented a substantial vote of confidence, even though concerns about the preservation of Hong Kong's way of life and law after 1997 were legitimate, he said.

The return of Hong Kong to Chinese control would be judged a litmus test of Peking's return to the world stage as a big player, he said.

China also had to look to the \$25 billion investments Peking has in the colony and the fact that half of China's exports go through Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong represents so much economic momentum, it is really conceivable that it is going to come juddering to a halt 600 days from now! Of course not," Mr Patten said.

Builders want streamlined rules for public sector projects

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S builders are calling on the Government to streamline the approval procedure for privately financed roads, schools and hospitals in a bid to break the "log-jam" they claim is dogging implementation of the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Ministers should establish PFI targets for each government department to speed up the flow of projects, according to submissions sent to Robert Jones, the Minister for Construction and Planning.

The industry also advocates the introduction of a minimum "threshold" for PFI projects, and says "model" contracts should be drawn up to provide the basis for agreements between companies responsible for the design, finance, construction and operation of projects, and the local authorities and government departments buying their services.

Under Treasury rules, every government and local authority capital investment project now has to be offered to the private sector. Only where the industry is unwilling to take on the risk will government cash be forthcoming.

Although industry supports the initiative, construction companies, now on the second downsizing of a double-dip recession, complain that the extra red tape is delaying projects and increasing the rate of job losses and bankruptcies throughout their industry.

The scale of the PFI, the demands that are being made of the private sector in respect of transfer of risk and the high cost of tendering for PFI projects are beginning to weigh heavily on the industry, according to a joint submission by the Construction Industry Employers' Council, the Construction Industry Council, and the Constructors Liaison Group.

The builders say that where a particular type of project has

failed to attract PFI interest, other similar schemes should be exempt from the test. They also argue that increased standardisation of project terms would simplify the bidding procedure and reduce the costs of companies taking part in competing bids.

Heath sale pays for expansion

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

CE HEATH, the insurance broking group, has sold off its 50 per cent shareholding in the Hong Kong joint venture, H H L (Holdings) Ltd, to its joint venture partner, Rollins Hudig Hall Holdings (RHH), for £16 million.

The proceeds will be used to fund the group's future international expansion, and Peter Presland, group chief executive, said CE Heath's relationship with RHH would be virtually unchanged. One condition was that the wholesale broking relationship between Heath and H H L should continue for at least the next five years.

"Not only have we received a significant cash consideration but will continue to trade as before with H H L," he said. "We remain committed to developing business in Asia where the name of Heath is well known, and intend to establish Heath Group operations in selected countries along the lines of our highly profitable Latin American offices."

In the year ended December 31, 1994, H H L had net assets of HK\$64.4 million (£5.32 million).

Profits double at MY

BY OUR CITY STAFF

MY HOLDINGS, the specialist paperboard and plastics packaging group, has more than doubled pre-tax profits to £9.1 million from £4.5 million in the year to September 2, helped by a maiden contribution from the PropakPak group of companies acquired during the year. Earnings rose to 5.2p a share from 4.49p. There is a final dividend of 1.4p a share, due January 22,

making a total of 2p (1.6p). The shares rose 4p to 69p yesterday.

John Monks, chief executive, said the most important feature of the year had been the "unprecedented" price increases in all of the group's major raw materials. However, higher demand for MY's products resulted in fuller use of capacity without increasing overheads.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS TO WIN £20,000 - PLUS SAVE 10% ON THIS HOLIDAY

Win a trip to Pakistan

EVERY DAY until the end of December, The Times and The Sunday Times, in association with Cox & Kings, are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two to a range of destinations throughout the world. Readers can also enjoy an exclusive 10 per cent discount off all 80 featured holidays and enter our prize draw competition to win £20,000 to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime. Destinations to be featured include cruises to Tobago and Grenada; holidays in Singapore and Thailand, and trips to Chicago and California.

HOW TO WIN £20,000

Collect 30 of the differently numbered tokens which will appear every day in The Times and The Sunday Times and you can enter our prize draw to win £20,000 cash. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances to enter the draw. An entry form to attach the tokens to will appear in The Times every Saturday.

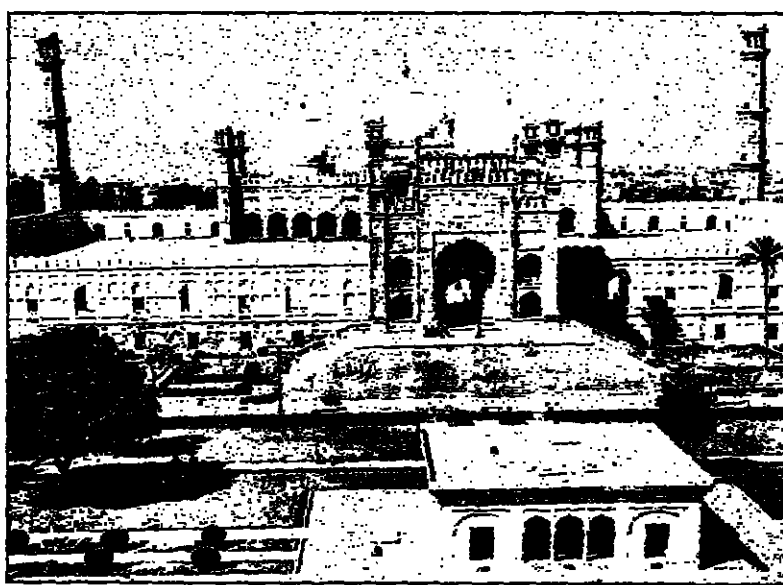
GATEWAY TO THE KHYBER PASS

The prize today is a 16-day holiday to the north-west frontier region of Pakistan and worth more than £3,000 for two. The tour begins at Taxila where the museum has an extensive collection of Gandhara relics. It continues to Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city and its cultural and intellectual centre, where you will see the 16th century fort covering an area 1,250 by 1,080 feet. Some of the buildings are in their original condition and fountains, lawns and flower arrangements embellish the courtyards, helping to give an idea of what it looked like in Moghul times.

In Peshawar, gateway to the Khyber Pass, and different from any other city in Pakistan, there is a modern university as well as an old bazaar which has changed little in the last 1,000 years. You also venture into the Swat Valley and to Gilgit which are among the most beautiful wilderness regions in the world.

HOW TO SAVE 10 PER CENT The tour is operated by Cox & Kings, the world's oldest travel company and a

leading specialist in tours to India and Latin America. For details of how to get your 10 per cent discount on this holiday, call the brochure hotline on 01369 70 77 11.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly from London to Islamabad. Day 2 Visit the ruins and museum at Taxila. Day 3 Tour Lahore. Day 4 Visit Lahore Fort and one of the world's largest mosques, the Badshahi where hair, said to be from the prophet Muhammad, are kept. See the tombs of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and his wife, Nur Jahan, and walk around the magnificent Shalimar Gardens, built in 1642, where fountains play at certain hours during the day. Day 5 Visit the Peshawar museum, Mohabat Khan's mosque and pass the Bala Hissar Fort. Day 6 Subject to government permission, usually given, you drive to the Khyber Pass, linking Afghanistan with Pakistan. Day 7 Drive into the foothills that surround the Swat valley where walks follow mountain streams. Day 8 Drive to Miandam, one of the most beautiful valleys in Swat. Day 9 Cross the Shangila Pass and continue to Chilas to spend a night at the Shangila Midway House. Day 10 Drive through sand dunes and bare mountain slopes to Gilgit. Day 11 A beautiful drive along

the Karakoram Highway to Karimabad. Day 12 To Gulmist, dominated by the Karakoram mountains. Day 13 Return to Gilgit, passing the great peak of Rakaposhi. Day 14 Early morning flight back to the capital, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi. Day 15 Free time. Day 16 Return flight to London.

DATES OF DEPARTURES

Apr 4, May 2 and 23; Sept 12 and 26; Oct 10, 1996. Prices from £1,390, down from £1,545. Includes all flights, 14 nights twinshare accommodation, transfers, sightseeing, a local escort and breakfast.

● The winner of Friday's holiday to Brazil was Mr David Cairnes of Aberdeen.

HOW TO WIN TODAY'S PRIZE

To win today's holiday answer the questions below and phone our competition hotline 0891 40 50 34 which will be open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Which countries are linked by the Khyber Pass?
2. What is the capital of Pakistan?
Calls are charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate and 45p at all other times).

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TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO MACHU PICCHU

Dobson rejects increased US offer

BY MARTIN BARROW

DOBSON Park Industries, the mining equipment company, has rejected an increased bid of 125p a share by Harnischfeger Industries, its American rival.

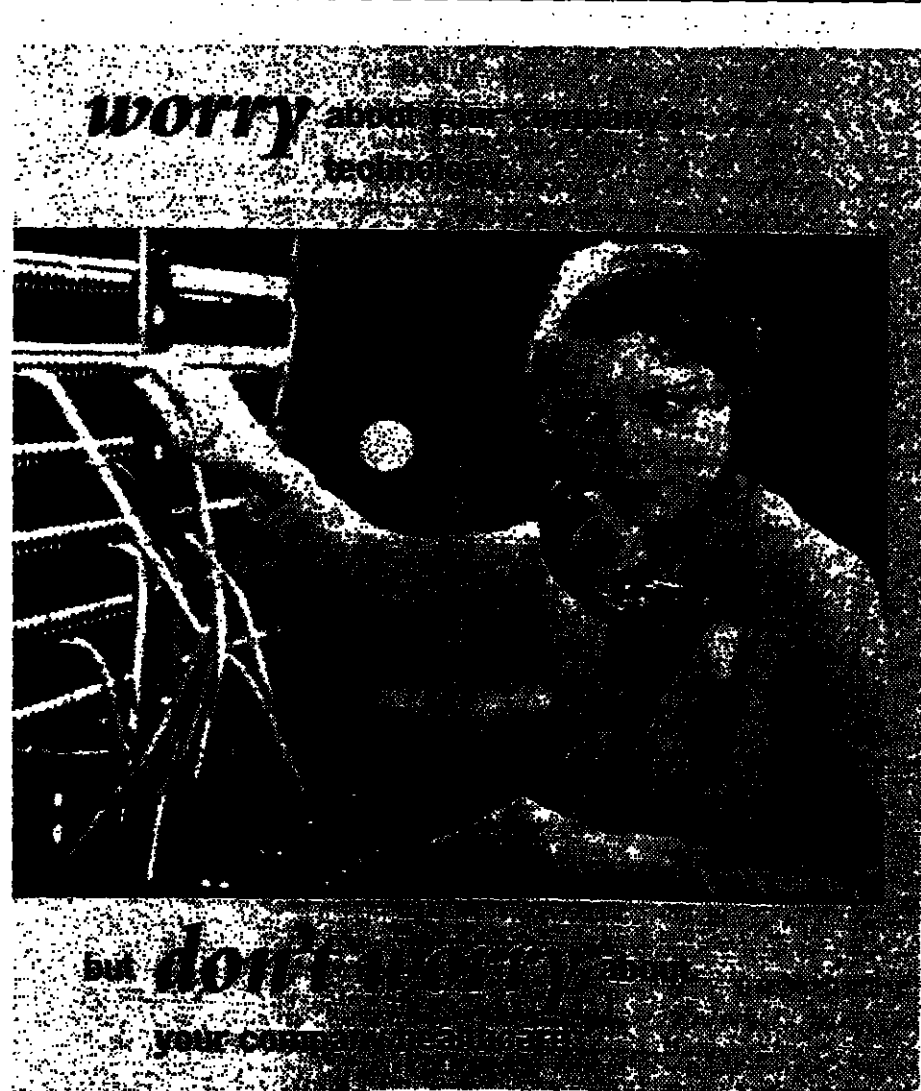
Harnischfeger, whose original offer was worth 110p a share, would also allow Dobson Park shareholders to retain a forecast final dividend of 3.3p per share for the year ended September 30, 1995.

Retention of the final dividend would give the offer a total value of 128.3p per share, valuing the company at £200 million. Yesterday, Dobson Park shares eased 1p to 124p.

Dobson Park said it had received a written proposal over the weekend from Harnischfeger, outlining its latest offer, which would be subject to the unanimous recommendation of the board.

"The board concluded that this undervalued Dobson Park and accordingly informed Harnischfeger that such an offer would not receive the recommendation of the board," the company said yesterday. Brokers forecast an offer of 130p to secure control.

Harnischfeger wants to merge its coal cutting equipment subsidiary, Joy Mining Machinery, with Dobson Park's principal subsidiary, Longwall International. Harnischfeger had been widely expected to increase its bid following Friday's profit forecast by Dobson Park, promising profits of £14.8 million before tax for the year to September 30, and increase of 41 per cent from £10.5 million.



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and documentation to suit the larger company. And our dedicated service - rated top in our recent Gallup poll - will never go out of fashion.

Guardian Health

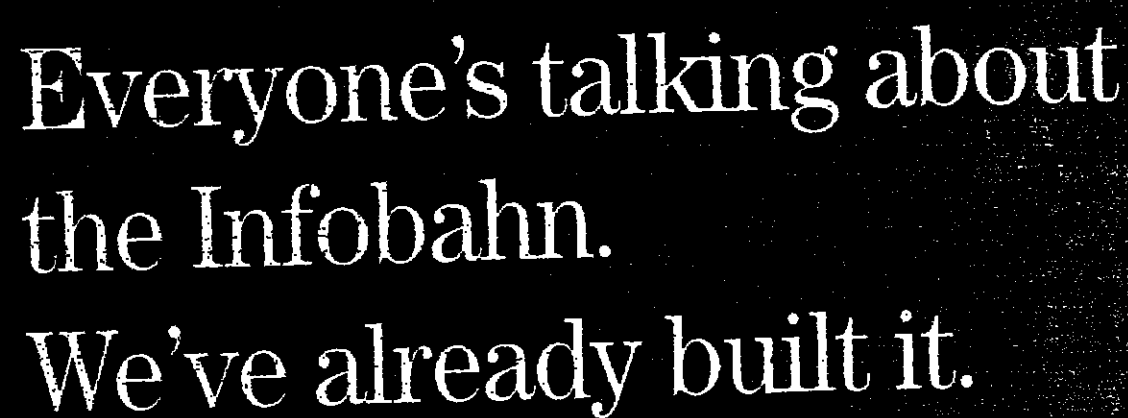
Heath sale pays for expansion

Double at N


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The Guardian



Deutsche Telekom was one of the first companies in the world to invest in the Infobahn. So it's hardly surprising that we're further down the road than our competitors. We already have the most closely woven fiber optics network - and the most extensively developed ISDN network - in the world. So wherever you want to go in the world of multimedia, we have all the routes you need.



The Infobahn is major news. It will create enormous opportunities; it will define the future competitiveness of entire national economies. At Deutsche Telekom, we recognized this potential years ago – and gained a head start in creating the necessary high-speed infrastructures to enable our customers to take full advantage of it. With the result that we now operate the most developed ISDN network, the most comprehensive cable network and the longest fiber optics network in the world.

The multimedia revolution isn't coming - it's here.
We are already seeing the first results of our efforts to make this new technology improve the way we all live.

Working with our partners, we have linked hospitals and clinics to the Data Infobahn. Now X-rays and scans can be sent from specialist to specialist for analysis – in seconds. Teams of surgeons, perhaps thousands of miles apart, can confer on-line, concentrating lifesaving skills and expertise where they are needed, regardless of where the specialists actually are.

In schools, the Infobahn is helping children to learn in new and more effective ways. Thanks to videoconferencing, they can even join other schoolchildren from around the world in "virtual" classrooms.

With our help, Lufthansa is now operating the world's first remote aircraft maintenance system. Via the Infobahn, performance data is transmitted to ground stations while the plane is in flight, and then processed into detailed service checklists for the next stop-over point.

We're also working with some of Germany's largest mail order companies to make teleshopping a reality: complete with on-screen selection, on-line customer assistance and electronic order processing and payment.

And, in conjunction with our partners, we're in the process of conducting a whole series of pilot projects, in thousands of private homes in Germany, to test the potential domestic applications of multimedia.

For the new era, a new structure. Deutsche Telekom made the move to stock corporation at the beginning of this year. This restructuring means we are now free to press on even faster with technological innovation. At the same time, we're creating dynamic global alliances with market-leading international partners like Intel and Microsoft.

Join the highway here.
We saw the multimedia revolution coming – and laid plans to take advantage of it. Our vision has created a version of the Infobahn which is now up and running, with an array of applications and services to match. It's the fast lane to the future: and you're welcome to join us on it.

Our connections move the world.

Deutsche Telekom



Duet for the disabled

Veronica Heath
finds a company
thriving on meeting
special needs for
personal transport

The federation is encouraging its members to appeal against rateable values, pointing out that there is no penalty even if the business drops the case at the last minute. Any rate rise should be frozen until the case is heard, it argues. That might speed up the appeals procedure, which can take several years.

If the UBR is not abolished, the federation would like to see a banding system similar to that on domestic properties so that only large businesses pay the full rates. The UBR would be abolished on properties should be extended from three months, and the 50 per cent rates paid if premises remain empty longer should be cut, it adds.

Ken Keene

"We could have settled it by phone but dragging you down here makes me feel superior"

He said: "According to government figures there are six million people in the UK suffering from a variety of handicaps. I felt there was potential here."

The Borderts lend themselves to cycling, with quiet roads and lovely scenery. Mr Bell had gained essential all-round business experience by training as a company secretary and his partner, Nancy, had been a director of a cycle shop in London.

Mr Bell said: "We could not have set up in a city. We needed the open road to show the potential and true value of our machines for handicapped riders." The Bells invested £10,000 from the sale of their London house in setting up premises and a further £30,000 went into establishing the company. A frontrunner for the business is a design called *Duet*, which



year. Neatwork's stand at the Mobility Roadshow held at Crowthorne, Berkshire, was honoured by a visit from the Queen. This is the largest exhibition for special needs transport in the UK. Mr Bell said: "We got an export order from Spain and expect to follow that up with some good business with major accounts."

"Successful small businesses today need to look at niche marketing," said Mr Bell. "Our attempt

has been to arm-wrestle the bike trade into looking at innovative design as a significant step forward. Any trade which ignores the six million disabled is virtually scrubbing out 10 per cent of the population."

Neatwork has recently expanded its marketing through a range of dealers and is currently building outlets in the United States and continental Europe.

NEATWORK: Tel 01890 883456.

□ The number of business start-up scheme places has fallen by more than half in a year, National Federation of Enterprise Agency researchers report. The Government had predicted a 25 per cent drop in introducing the single regeneration budget, under which small enterprise agencies must request money in regional consortiums with training and enterprise councils, or local authorities instead of individually. The Federation, however, discovered from its 130 agencies that 54 per cent fewer places were available and has asked the Government to account for "such a wide discrepancy".

❑ **Manchester Business School** has launched its 1995 Entrepreneurship Project to help business owners and senior managers. Teams from the school's MBA programme research markets for new products and services and produce a business plan. The scheme has run for several years. Details: Dr Chris Easingwood or Kate Todd on 0161 273 6333.

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Canada

■ VISUAL ART 1

The power and vitality of a continent is displayed in a new show of modern African art

■ VISUAL ART 2

From jewel box to tomb: an exhibition of ancient Chinese treasures proves they did try to take it with them

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSEUMS

It may be hard to find, but Ryedale Folk Museum must have something to offer. It's Museum of the Year

■ TOMORROW

More than 300 programmes over a period of 18 days on eight screens: your guide to the London Film Festival

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on a feast of art in the Africa season; the best museum of 1995; plus London galleries

Always something new out of Africa

Visitors to the Royal Academy's great Africa show could be excused for imagining that art throughout the continent somehow petered out in our own age. But the Africa 95 season, now culminating so many galleries across Britain, demolishes that supposition. The major contemporary exhibition is housed at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, where *Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa* juxtaposes seven countries and defines their singular achievements since the 1960s. In each case, the selection has been made by an insider, an artist or historian with an eyewitness's grasp of recent developments.

The Quest is the open-ended title chosen by Chika Okeke for an exploration of different movements in Nigerian art. The section is prefaced by Eshobor Emekpa's painting *Struggle Between Life and Death*. Executed in 1962, its black-and-white geometrical starkness centres on the image of a head and outflung hands. This urge to overcome runs through the entire exhibition.

In Nigeria, artistic liberation has come by merging indigenous traditions with fruitful Western influences. The tension between them gives much of the work its dynamism, and in the section devoted to Sudan and Ethiopia a further dimension becomes apparent. For modern Sudanese artists tried to make sense of the gulf between the Arabic and African sides of their country. Kamala Ibrahim Ishag is inspired by traditional ceremonies, but in *Images in Crystal* she also shows an awareness of Francis Bacon. The Ethiopian artist Elizabeth Atamu's *Shrine for Angelica's Dreams* is the most spectacular exhibit, bringing together a cornucopia of religious icons, plastic soldiers, flowers and dolls.

For sheer theatricality, though, the Senegalese section is impossible to resist. Visitors move through a curtain into an arena where colossal painted canvases dangle freely from the ceiling. As raised platforms act as an outdoor plaza for wooden crosses and other, equally evocative props, it looks like a stage-set, and many of these objects were made for performances at the *Laboratoire Agit-Art*, an artists' collective

in Dakar. The harsher emotions are found upstairs, where South Africa kicks off with a room dominated by heartfelt paintings of the martyrdom of Steve Biko. Sam Nhlengethwa, Paul Shupfirth and Alfred Thoba all make moving images about Biko's death in detention. In the next room Kevin Atkinson's *White African Landscape* seems at first glance like a fairly expressionist response to heat of the countryside. But part of its turbulence derives from Atkinson's awareness that 87 per cent of the country's land was given to white settlers in a 1913 parliamentary Act.

As we move on to Uganda and Kenya, the mood becomes increasingly tragic. The political regimes of Idi Amin and Milton Obote

abundance of space. Cyprien Tokoudagba, accustomed to decorating shrines and temples with murals in his native Benin, is able to fill all four walls of the largest room with exclamatory paintings. Addicted to gods, especially if branches or triple heads sprout from hair necks, he handles the wide white surfaces with seasoned verve. Indeed, the Whitechapel's violence and suffering are hard to find in this effervescent exhibition. Some of the small drawings in ballpoint and coloured crayon by the prolific Fréderic Bruly Bouabré tackle the savagery of racial conflicts. But his childlike style is more often playful and fantastic, reflecting his own belief in the visionary, God-inspired origins of his talent. Bodys Isek Kingelez spirals off

Bristol. All the same, this lively touring show points out that over 95 per cent of Jamaica's population are the descendants of Africans taken there during the slave trade. All the diverse artists on view here owe a profound debt to the sculptor Edna Manley's attempts, after her arrival on the island in the 1920s, to nurture an identifiably Jamaican visual culture.

Most of the painters have a strong expressionist flavour. Milton George sets biblical figures in primordial landscapes, and is unafraid of vehement colour heightened by loose, impassioned brushwork. Leonard Daley is even more impetuous, crowding his surfaces with clamorous clusters of figures and animals who leer, gesticulate, threaten and dance with beguiling gusto.

6 The harshest emotions are in a room of paintings of the martyrdom of South Africa's Steve Biko

scarred the imaginations of native artists, and Josephine Alacu's *Mother's Nightmare* dramatises the anguish of a woman dreaming that her child has been devoured by an insatiable monster.

The emphasis on intense combat and oppression continues in the final room with Kenyan artists, who are often self-taught. Richard Onyango's immense painting of a catastrophic train crash presides over the space, like a rumbling painterly equivalent of a wide-screen disaster movie. A flooded river has swept away half the carriages, and Onyango reinforces the brutality of the event with the vigour of his muscular brushstrokes. The Ugandan artist Francis Nnagenda sums up the strength of the exhibition by declaring: "Destruction exists but the spirit must survive — amputated but still full of resistance."

Bucancy is the overriding temper of the Serpentine Gallery's enjoyable Big City. Artists from Africa show. Unlike the Whitechapel survey, it concentrates on individuals and gives each one an

into a frankly surreal world. Based in Zaire, this indefatigable and witty artist builds proliferating cities out of wrapping paper, cardboard, plastic and any other materials he can find. The resourcefulness of his approach is quintessentially African in its improvisation, and the epic construction called *Kimbeville* is the high point of the whole show. Peppered with post-modern buildings whose function escapes definition, this bizarre yet oddly persuasive town bristles with unpredictable energy.

Not everything at the Serpentine is a success. Georges Adéagbo's installations, combining found objects with written messages, are long-winded and hard to decipher. But Seydou Keita's photographs of friends and clients in his native Mali are rich in psychological insight, wry play-acting and a marvellous instinct for the revealing pose.

Caribbean experience is the theme running through the defiantly individual contributions to New World Imagery: Contemporary Jamaican Art at the Arnolfini in

Such headlong work could hardly be further removed from the stillness and secrecy cultivated by Anna Henriques. Of Portuguese-Jewish descent, she tries to bring about a fusion of European and indigenous Arawak influences. Often presented in the form of cupboards and dressers, she ensures that doors and drawers open to disclose trinkets and archaeological remains arranged like burial offerings within.

The most polemical images are provided by David Boxer, the director of the National Gallery in Kingston and a doughty champion of Jamaican art. His haunting collage sequence, *Memories of Colonisation*, shows grandiose European interiors invaded by African masks and photographs of injured bodies. The sense of melancholy and waste is poignantly conveyed, and the paintings by Omari Ra "African" of hunched figures are equally anguished. But the overall feeling of the show is resilient. After centuries of subservience Jamaica is discovering its independent identity, and artists play a central role in giving this emancipation form.

Seven Stories, Whitechapel Art Gallery (0171-377 0107) until Nov 26. Big City, Serpentine Gallery (0171-402 6075) until Nov 5. New World Imagery, Arnolfini, Bristol (0117-929 931) until Nov 12



Kenya's Josephine Alacu's *Mother's Nightmare*, in the Modern Africa exhibition at the Whitechapel

As you approach Hutton-le-Hole from the south, Ryedale Folk Museum is not signposted, and even outside its door you have to look very hard at a dingy sign standing on the verge to be sure you have arrived. One of the Museum of the Year judges drove straight past it and into the North Yorkshire Moors. "Well worth the mistake," he remarked.

The mistake might still be a costly one for the museum, whose visitors and commensurate earning power dipped dangerously near the 40,000-a-year mark in 1994 from its 50,000 of a couple of years ago. All its income comes through the front door, either in admission charges or shop takings, which makes the proliferating competition of theme parks in the region a serious threat.

But the undeterred judges have made Ryedale the 1995

Plaudits for everyday stories of country folk

Ryedale may be the 1995 Museum of the Year, but it is under threat from theme parks, Simon Tait reports

National Heritage IBM Museum of the Year, preferring it to the likes of the National Museum of Wales and Coventry's Herbert Art Gallery. At first glance it is not obvious why.

It is still more or less the result of one local man's mania for collecting bits and bobs, it has no café, its high-tech stretches as far as light switches in some places, and though it was one of the first open-air museums in the

country when it opened in 1966 it has long been superseded by the likes of Ironbridge, Beamish and the Black Country Museum.

The only object it has ever bought, with the help of the Museums and Galleries Commission, was a gypsy caravan and half the £400 price was the fee of the signwriter who painted it. But the Ryedale museum has just spent £250,000 on itself, not so much

to attract more visitors, says curator Martin Watts, as to be a better museum for those who already come, 5,000 of whom are children. The money has come from a host of charities and the local authority.

Ryedale Folk Museum was founded in 1966 by a Hutton-born former gamekeeper, Bert Frank, who had developed an enthusiasm for arcane agricultural implements from trying to mend them, and then for traditional Yorkshire buildings from helping neighbours to re-erect their old barns and cruck cottages. He developed the three acres behind a cottage he lived in with a chemist's shop, a saddlery, a village grocery, then a cottage, then a larger one, then a manor house, then an Elizabethan glass foundry. Everything is given, and the buildings are either transplants from near by or reconstructions.

Watts is the third curator and one of his first additions was the corrugated iron studio of the local photographer, William Hayes, who first set it up in York and then, in 1911, dismantled it, put it on a horse-drawn cart, and trundled it to Hutton where his son ran it after William's death in 1940. All the many photographs in the studio of Hutton and surrounds were taken by the Hayesses, and the star exhibit is a vibrant image of William's 1904 wedding reception, in the studio, with the vicar glaring from the end of the table over a cup of tea.

There is a shop but no café because it would take trade away from the two already operating in the village. And the income is just enough to cover expenses, thanks to the volunteers — from the folk who stand behind the grocery's counter or bang bits of iron in the forge and chat to visitors, to the local Quaker warden who is cataloguing the costume collection and has so far produced 400 drawings.

There are no actors dressed up as Roman soldiers or 19th-century agricultural workers, just friendly natterers with memories. There is a witch's hut, unashamedly unsound historically, complete with cauldron, cat and witch. There are students from the Institute of Advanced Architecture at York plastering a manor house wall for the experience. There have been children from a local special school restoring a mobile lambing hut.

"I think this award is for all the volunteers who make this museum what it is," says Watts. "It's easy for us to keep saying thank you, but this shows what people from outside Ryedale think. They think it's pretty good."

Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton-le-Hole, York (01751 417367)

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AROUND THE GALLERIES

IF "costume jewellery" suggests some cheap but glittery adjunct to the rag trade, the historical Chinese equivalent illustrated by *Adornment for Eternity* will prove an eye-opener. The point about these pieces of often highly wrought bronze, gold and jade, is that they were vital indices of rank and status, and were intended as indicators not only in this world but in the life to come. Most of the earlier jewels included consequently come from tombs, and the exhibits range in date from the Shang dynasty, around the 13th century BC, up to the Ming, before 1644. Another expectation which the show confirms is that everything from China will look recognisably Chinese. The earliest piece here, gold and turquoise earrings found on the northern borders, must come from much further west, and several of the pieces from the Warring States period (4th and 3rd centuries BC) could be taken for Viking or Celtic. The beauty of design and workmanship and the fascination of the background history make the show unmissable.

Eskenazi, 10 Clifford Street, W1 (0171-493 5464) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, until Dec 15.

□ Morris Kestelman, now 90, was a pupil of Meninsky, and some influence is visible in his figures-in-landscapes, especially when the figures are heavy-limbed women and the landscapes Mediterranean. There were also times in the 1930s, as with the series of circus scenes, when he came close to Arizzone and Barnett Freedman. Later still-lives suggest William Scott, while pictures of goats and Spanish fishermen look Neo-Romantic. But throughout all these changes an individual voice is heard.

Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 1126) Wed-Sat 11am-6pm, to Nov 18.

□ Between the wars every stage of modernism in British painting was endlessly and often bitterly contested. The line cut, with its associations of primary-school craft class-

es, was much too humble to attract a like attention. It was therefore, presumably, not by chance that Claude Flight and his associates at the Grosvenor School hit on it as their best bet for freedom of artistic expression. The images they then produced were boldly simplified. In a fashion which we would now think of as Deco, now two exhibitions highlight the work of three prominent members of the group: Cyril Power and Sybil Andrews at Redfern, and Lill Tschudi at Coram. Power was responsible for some of the

most exciting and haunting images, notably *The Tube Station* (1932), which seems to summon up the whole spirit of the movement. Tschudi is still, at the age of 84, working in the medium. Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 1732), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Nov 16. Coram Gallery, 10 Lamb's Conduit Passage, WC1 (0171-404 2040), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (Wed to 7.30pm), until Fri.

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Canada Manitoba



Ryedale Folk Museum is still more or less the result of one Yorkshireman's mania for collecting bits and bobs

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LAW

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● MEDIA MATTERS 41

Diana Parker urges caution not coercion for couples who want to divorce



A mediation session gets under way at a family divorce centre in Cambridge. But such a course of action is not suitable for everybody

□ The Lord Chancellor's divorce-law reforms will be introduced in the next parliamentary session. They are aimed at reducing bitterness and hostility by ending the adversarial nature of the present "fault-based" divorce laws. The "quickie" divorce, which couples can obtain in six months, will be scrapped; divorce will be available only after a 12-month period for reflection, after arrangements are made for children and for property.

□ Mediation — helping couples to sort out problems amicably — is a central feature. Last week Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, emphasising his own commitment to the institution of marriage, said that laws could not keep a broken marriage together. But laws could help to reduce conflict. At present couples go to lawyers and take up opposing positions. That did not make reconciliation easy or "encourage" communication. "I want

couples to talk to each other... to be able to think through the consequences of divorce before it happens, not after, as happens now. I want them to think about what their marriage has to offer both them and their children before they decide whether or not to throw it away."

□ Mediation was not about reconciliation. But its "focus on communication" offered a better way of saving marriages that were not "irretrievable".

Is mediation always best?

Taking professional advice when making a big financial decision is sensible — particularly when emotions are running high. I learnt this when I fell in love with my house at first viewing and offered the full asking price even before I had reached the top floor. Unfortunately, the asking price was several thousands more than I had thought.

This story may do nothing for my reputation for financial negotiation. But it illustrates a point about the Government's divorce reform proposals. These fall into two parts: the reform of the grounds for divorce by abolishing the concept of fault; and the introduction of mediation to the process. I am concerned with the latter point: though people should be encouraged to try mediation, they must also be free not to.

Before being cast as a subliminal trade unionist, let me prove my credentials. About ten years ago, I helped to set up what is now a nationwide association of trained mediators called the Family Mediators Association. Our approach involves two mediators, one a family lawyer, the other with a coun-

selling background. This allows us to mediate on all issues that arise in family breakdown, including financial issues.

The promotion of mediation is to be greatly welcomed. It can be an effective, relatively inexpensive and good-tempered way of uncoupling, and should be one option for separating couples.

A common comment is that "mediators control the process but not the outcome". They are facilitators — holding the ring and encouraging couples to reach their own agreements. Generalised information can be given, but a mediator is wholly neutral and cannot advise either party. A couple do their own negotiations in a safe environment but what is happening is private negotiation.

Of course, private negotiations go on all the time... selling a second-hand car, agreeing a price with a builder who is to do work for you, buying a house. But in all those instances, there is a relatively free market with commonly known values.

There are horror stories of little old ladies being ripped for thousands of pounds for having a state replaced, but mostly people are streetwise and know that they ought to get two or three estimates before embarking on a large building project, or that they should check the prices quoted for second-hand cars in a used-car guide before selling an old vehicle.

So a prerequisite for government encouragement of medi-

ation must be the availability of individual legal advice. The Lord Chancellor's Department recognises this only up to a point. There seems to be a great fear that lawyers will run in parallel, snapping at the heels of a couple, ever ready to dart in and swoop everyone off to court. In fact, more than 90 per cent of divorces are already settled out of court.

The process of mediation is one of investigating financial circumstances, as well as working towards an outcome. Usually, both parties will need to keep consulting a lawyer. Initial legal advice is not enough; it needs to be given in partnership with mediation.

Couples seem to feel this, too. In a survey by the Solicitors Family Law Association published yesterday, 77 per cent of a sample of more than 1,100 people going through divorce said that if they went to mediation, they would like access to their own solicitor throughout the process.

Even then, mediation is not always going to work or be fair. In the same survey 48 per cent of the sample said they would not feel comfortable going through mediation and less than a third thought their divorce could be resolved amicably through a mediator.

The Government recognises that mediation has to be a voluntary process, but apparently it may not be enough for a person just to say "no". To obtain legal aid for a lawyer to negotiate a divorce may be difficult: it will entail jumping

through hoops and proving that mediation is inappropriate.

The White Paper on divorce reform says that mediation will not be appropriate if there has been domestic violence. That is right, but in the survey domestic violence accounted only for 13 per cent of those who did not feel comfortable with mediation. What about the many more insidious and intangible imbalances between partners?

Often the sheer force of emotion endangers fairness. What about the husband who is guilt-ridden at leaving his wife of 30 years for a woman half her age? What of the woman who has always been, and still is, in her husband's thrall? What of the man who feels he has to pay whatever is asked, if he is going to be able to have contact with his children? And what of the woman who desperately wants her husband back, at any price? Then there is the person who knows nothing of the complex finances of the family company the partner has run for the past 20 years.

Even before one tackles the problem of how to stop mediation being manipulated, there is an almost infinite list of categories. A common trick is to start at a ridiculously extreme position in countering a reasonable proposal, the typical result being the exploitation of the more reasonable party. There are many other such tricks.

The Government's reforms may amount to coercion. There is its idea that the statutory charge — a clawback of a percentage of the proceeds of the sale of your house which returns to the legal aid fund —

will not apply to those who have gone through mediation, but will apply to those who use lawyers to negotiate a settlement. This may look like an innocuous carrot to encourage mediation, but it is a pretty big stick for the victim of domestic violence for whom mediation is expressly said to be unsuitable. As a keen proponent of mediation, I want people to be encouraged to say "yes" to it. But they must also have the right to say "no".

● The author is a solicitor practising in London and a committee member of the Solicitors Family Law Association (01689 850227).

Wanted: judges to judge the judges

The News of the World story headlined "Judge's drugs and sex romp with jailbird hookers" told much about the obsessions of the newspaper and its readers, but little about a judge's ability fairly to decide commercial disputes as an official referee. That many of us have a prurient interest in the bizarre and shameful practices of those who work for some newspapers should not, however, deflect attention away from the important question of how judicial discipline should be regulated.

Without the aid of hidden microphones, telephoto lenses or an open cheque book, Professor Martin L. Friedland of the University of Toronto has thrown considerable light on this, among other topics, in his recently published report to the Canadian Judicial Council, *A Place Apart: Judicial Independence and Accountability in Canada*. The report compares and contrasts practice in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom as to various aspects of judicial administration, including appointments, training, and evaluation of performance.

In England, judges of the High Court and the Court of Appeal hold office "during good behaviour", and can only be removed after an address presented to the Queen by both Houses of Parliament. These provisions have only once been implemented, in 1830, in the case of Sir John Brougham of the High Court of Admiralty in Ireland, who had been convicted of appropriating for his own use funds paid into court.

Circuit judges may be removed by the Lord Chancellor "on the ground of incapacity or misbehaviour". This power has only once been exercised, in 1983, after a judge was convicted of smuggling whisky and cigarettes into Britain in his yacht.

In practice, as Professor Friedland observes, "discipline has, for the most part, been handled informally" in England. The Lord Chancellor considers complaints against judges, and issues warnings or reprimands, some public and some private, in relation to a variety of misdemeanours, from sexual harassment of court staff to drink-driving offences. In a serious case, a judge may be encouraged to resign or take early retirement. Some judges have been made offers they could not refuse. Little has changed in this respect since the resignation of Lord Atkin as law lord in 1928. "The Lord Chancellor asked me to call upon him. He said the scurrilous press of Quebec had abused the Privy Council and said the members were all old fogies, that I was the oldest, and had better resign. So I did."

Professor Friedland's study identifies the primitive nature of our procedures for addressing judicial misconduct, by comparison with those in operation elsewhere in the developed judicial world. In Canada and in the United States there are various structures for considering complaints, whether against federal or state judges, which serve the public interest better.

The public is informed of what has been decided and why, the decisions are made by committees which include both judicial and lay representation, and procedural fairness is guaranteed to those whose conduct is under investigation. It is increasingly untenable that standards of judicial discipline should be left in England to a government minister and the Civil Service.

The American and Canadian experience also shows that effective judicial administration requires the development of a code of conduct, to articulate, even if only in general terms, the ethical standards which the judiciary is expected to observe in a variety of contexts.

In 1994, the Lord Chancellor took a first tentative step along this route. He explained that he "would regard a conviction for an offence of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs as so grave as to amount *prima facie* to misbehaviour". The same would apply, he said, "in the very unlikely event of a conviction for any offence involving violence to persons, dishonesty or moral turpitude". Furthermore, racial, religious or sexual harassment "is not consistent with the standards expected of those who hold judicial office".

Dr Johnson believed that a judge "may play a little at cards for his amusement; but he is not to play at marbles or at chuck-farthing in the Piazza". At the end of the 1990s, we no longer require our judges to pretend to be moral guardians of the community, immune from the vices which tempt ordinary mortals.

A Judicial Council, with some lay representation, should be appointed to prepare and apply a code of judicial conduct for the modern world. This might even persuade some editors to return to exposing the exotic private lives of more important public figures — that is footballers, pop-singers and actors from television soap operas.

● *A Place Apart: Judicial Independence and Accountability in Canada* is published by the Canadian Communication Group (\$38.95).

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

People must also have the right to say 'No'

● Mr C.H.T. Parry and Mrs A.I. Parry, whose home, Church House, Madeley, Crewe, appeared in a photograph (Times Law, October 10) have no connection whatsoever with the litigation concerning the recovery of debt referred to in the accompanying report and caption; and they have had absolutely no connection, commercial or otherwise, with the person pictured outside their home.

Bars to knowledge

MICHAEL HOWARD will no doubt be relieved when Judge Tamm retires this week as HM Chief Inspector of Prisons.

One of his last engagements will be at Holloway prison, launching a new book on the schooldays of offenders *Criminal Classes* by Angela Devlin. She spent two years talking to 100 offenders to research the link between

failure at school and later offending.

One strong thread emerged — the view that judges had no knowledge of what life behind bars was like. Training of judges includes a prison visit but more time could be spent, she argues, talking with the prisoners themselves.

□ A STONE fountain, marble sculptures, paintings,

printed silk and jewellery are all on display this week at the ninth Bench and Bar Art and Craft exhibition at the Old Hall in Lincoln's Inn. The organisers say the exhibition will reflect the great range of legal artistic talent. Judges, barristers and their families have all contributed to the triennial exhibition. Most of the 300 or so exhibits are for sale. The private view is today

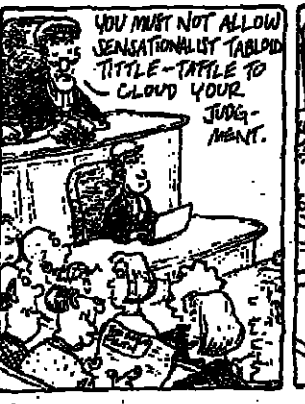
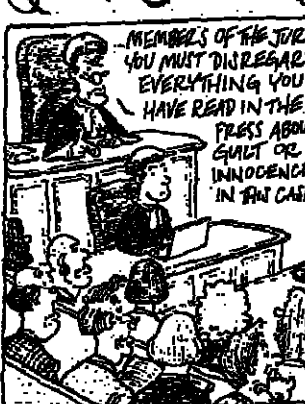
and the exhibition will run until Friday.

□ A NATIONAL marketing campaign for regional solicitors starts this week. The Solicitors' Trust now has more than 100 law firms involved and is to promote its existence. Participating solicitors, who pay £80 a week, get the benefit of £10,000 a week worth of national advertising. Public inquiries are referred via a hotline to the member solicitor in their part of the country.

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The successful candidate would have a first rate academic background and have gained their experience with a major law firm. You should have experience of working with international clients and with clients located within the Pacific Rim, particularly South East Asia. Proven advocacy skills and experience are essential. A good knowledge of Japanese would be advantageous.

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Our Insurance Group is seeking to make two strategic appointments to meet an increasing flow of high quality insurance instructions.

Our first appointment is for a lawyer with specialist insurance experience, likely to have been gained from a firm with a proven track record in this area. He or she will be involved in a wide range of insurance related transactions including acquisitions and disposals, agency agreements and regulatory matters and will be expected to play a key role in the continued development of this important area of our practice.

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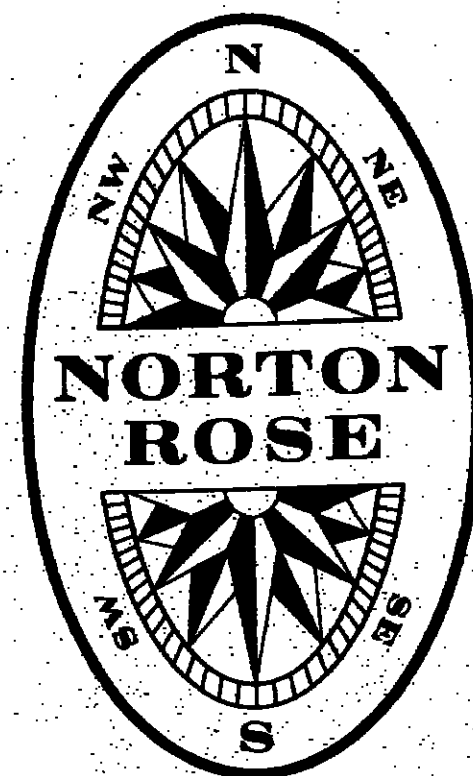
Construction and Engineering is one of our fastest growing areas of practice and we are looking further to expand our well established specialist team. The work is both contentious and non-contentious with a strong international emphasis. The successful candidates will be team players with a proven track record in this specialist area and who are looking to extend the range and geographical scope of the work they do.

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Please submit written applications to Stuart Walker at Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London EC2A 2HA. Alternatively, contact Jonathan Brenner or Andrew Russell on 0171-377-0510 (0181-940-6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PY.

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Being a teenager's not much fun in Chester

My colleague, Nigella Lawson, has a theory that nowadays we remain in a state of extended adolescence all at least one-third of the time. It's something pretty catastrophic such as childbirth or total hair loss to bring the party to a final close.

Certainly her theory explains why I enjoyed *Grange Hill* until I finally got a job that threatened to banish teenage television for ever, why I still enjoy the odd episode of *Byker Grove* now that I have a job that doesn't and why I only have to hear the thunderous opening chords of the theme to *Beverly Hills 90210* to be instantly transported into the California surf-bum I never was. *Primal* really.

And it also explains why I was looking forward to *Hollyoaks* (Channel 4), the new teenage drama devised and initially written by Phil Redmond, the creator of *Grange Hill* and, of course,

Brookside. Then something pretty cataclysmic happened — I didn't enjoy it.

Set in Chester, *Hollyoaks* will concern itself with the lives and loves of what I am reliably informed are seven main characters, however their opening episode, however it was difficult to keep control, partly because nobody said anything for the first six minutes (lots of bouncy music while various storylines struggled to establish themselves) and partly because I missed a quick costume change and counted Natasha (Sheba Ramsey) twice. It was an easy mistake to make — good-looking twins are, after all, more or less a staple of teenage soaps.

But if most of the characters faded into the episode with about as much personality as they began with, the same could not be said of poor Kurt (Jeremy Edwards), who appeared to have several. If this was 90210, Kurt was Brandon and

Dylan rolled into one, good guy and bad guy in one unhappy but funky body. Small wonder Edwards looked confused.

His task was made no easier by Redmond's script, which seemed to have lumbered him with a lot of lines with too many words in the "Madeline is not a woman, she's a girl" line. That's male bonding stuff between you and me" does not exactly trip off the adolescent tongue.

Opening episodes are notoriously difficult to write and given the debt *Hollyhocks* undoubtedly owes to its Californian cousin it might have been sensible for Channel 4 to allow Redmond to adopt the American habit of making the first episode double the length. It did not. Redmond's track record suggests it should be wrong sticking with Kurt and the gang, but I have a nasty feeling that even my

yet another reminder that one of the lesser known drawbacks to *Care in the Community* is cameras in the community.

Sufferers from Münchhausen's may be articulate, intelligent and medically well read, but they are still mentally ill. So whether the camera should have lingered for quite so long on the untidy Nina, or on Simon, the serial harasser, is debatable, especially as the condition appears to be a cry for attention. As Nina happily admitted, her extensive library of medical programmes included several *Cutting Edge* documentaries, so the chance of starring in one must have been too good to miss.

"Starring", explained a psychiatrist, is very much the operative word when it comes to Münchhausen's. "It's not that they don't see hospital as a life-threatening place as normal people do, they see it as theatre with them as the principal actor." Nina, who

dreams of a broken back and 24-hour after-care, made this craving for attention painfully clear in a final scene which saw her tearfully contemplating another Christmas alone as she stood on the roof of the Blackpool car park that she had repeatedly threatened to herself. She then paused and pulled herself together. "I'd like you to get that bit in if you could."

For those suffering from Austen disorder, the main symptom of which is a strange compulsion to stay rooted to the sofa on a Sunday night. **Omnibuses:** **Presumption** (BBC1) will have been a welcome extra treat. Randall Wright's lovingly assembled film not only provided an accessible biography of the author, it was also a celebration of the important little gems of Austen minuscule.

The pump she never used ('she'd have had servants'), the names she borrowed from her

neighbours, her habit of rising early to practise the piano, were dispensed with utmost authority by a devoted and enthusiastic band of largely female followers. Men were reduced to mysterious acts of manual labour, such as ringing the bells at Winchester Cathedral. "They probably wouldn't have rung it for Jane Austen's death—she was relatively unknown as a writer and, of course, didn't hold office in the cathedral in any way."

Apart from Elizabeth Jenkins's glorious rejection of the suggestion that Austen was an incestuous lesbian ("I'd you'd like to set up a separate interview . . ."), it was left to P.D. James to craft mild controversy through her admission that the best plot of the Austen novels was the same—a woman looking for and finding the right mate. "They all end in marriage." So, come Sunday, remember, it wasn't me who gave it away.

REVIEW

Matthew
Bond

BBC1

- 8.00am Business Breakfast (252398)
9.00 BBC Breakfast News (5667792)
9.05 Kilroy (s) (1577798)
10.00 News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (5872144) 10.05 Housemates (s) (1622250)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (1763673)
10.50 News (Cesfax) and weather (4718347)
12.05pm Pebble Mill (s) (7480279)
12.50 Regional news and weather (14219229)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Cesfax) (73786)
1.30 Neighbours (Cesfax) (s) (9169270)
1.55 Alisa Smith and Jones (j) (1057786) 2.40 Mary Berry's Ultimate Cakes (s) (7613144) 3.05 The Great British Quiz (s) (9226250)
3.30 Funnies (s) (j) (1513724) 3.35 Blinky Bill (C881288) 4.45 Cesar's Orchestra (s) (5417927)
4.50 The 4th Deadly Sin (s) (9385347) 4.55 Fan Trz (Cesfax) (s) (2265182)
5.00 Newsworld (Cesfax) (8414502)
5.10 Bryker Grove (Cesfax) (2706507)
5.35 Neighbours (j) (Cesfax) (s) (824724)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Cesfax) and weather (279)
6.30 Regional news magazines (231)
7.00 Island Race Plymouth to Falmouth, John McQuinn and Sarah Jones have a week left to sail along the South Coast to Falmouth to complete their circumnavigation of Britain. (Cesfax) (s) (6182)
7.30 EastEnders (Cesfax) (s) (415)

BBC2

- 6.00am Technology Session: Wall to Wall (42453) 6.30
Havenly Games (52705)
7.00 Breakfast News (CeeFax and signing) (5168081)
7.15 Leslie (s) (9845637) 7.40 Pirates of Dark
Water (s) (CeeFax) (9956238) 8.05 Blue Peter (s)
(CeeFax) (1819255)
8.35 The Record (s) (8601434)
9.00 Daytime on Two: Educational programmes. Plus,
for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (1617328)
2.00pm The Family Ness (s) (9707813) 2.05
Christopher Crocodile (s) (87077434)
2.10 Snooker: The Skoda Grand Prix (s) (2837415)
3.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather followed
by Westminster with Nick Ross (s) (8859279)
3.55 News (CeeFax) and weather (8128982)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (144)
4.30 Snooker from Sunderland (82855)
5.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (457618)
6.25 Heartbreak High. (CeeFax) (s) (984637)
7.10 Dear Dilemma. (CeeFax) (s) (795106)
7.30 **NEW** From the Edge. Topical magazine from a
disabled person's viewpoint. (CeeFax)
(s) (547)
8.08 Sound Stories: Escape from Planet Earth. Thirty
opera enthusiasts from Britain attend the Verona
Opera Festival. Last in the series (s) (5124)

CHOICE

- Network Film Fear and Counting in Las Vegas**
ITV, 10.40pm (Scottish, 11.15pm)
 Dominic O'Brien is world memory champion and has an entry in *The Guinness Book of Records* to prove it. His speciality is memorising the running order of decks of cards, a handy accomplishment when it comes to playing blackjack and one which has made him a lot of money. "Card counting" is not illegal but it is frowned upon by casinos. As he is virtually unbeatable in Britain, O'Brien has his luck in the United States. Paul O'Dell's diverting film follows his progress as he plays a series of warm-ups before tackling the ultimate gambling venue, Las Vegas. He wins some, loses some but usually ends up in the black while keeping one step ahead of casino security men who would love to run him out of town.
- Nice Work: Thank You And Goodbye**
BBC2, 9.30pm
 A four-part series about the world of work opens by looking at an experience that has affected five million Britons since 1990: getting the sack. The theme running through the film is the brutality with which loyal, hard-working people can be dismissed. One breakfast and told them to leave that day. Not surprisingly, the bacon and eggs remained largely uneaten. College lecturers describe how their redundancy notices were delivered to their homes by motorcycle dressed in sinister black leather. Interviewees are shown in a range of ways, from the obvious to the understated, as they are trained on how to conduct what is

CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (781809S)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Quiz (s) (5182521)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (1827705)
10.00 The Time...the Place (s) (9550780)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine show (38969163)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (1476231)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (5528786)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9536705)
1.55 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (22333057)
1.55 A Country Practice (s) (91880606)
2.20 Vanessa: Money-Grabbing Woman (Teletext) (s)
(44691347) 2.50 Capital Woman (s) (8565989)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (3603908)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8458750)
3.30 Giggle Allsorts (s) (4704095) 3.40 Tots TV (s)
(1583239) 3.50 Hot Rod Dogs (s) (4708811) 4.05
The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (9300279)
4.15 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
(1554989)
4.40 The Ward (Teletext) (s) (6424182)
5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (1653453)
5.50 ITN Evening News (Teletext) and weather (255618)
5.55 Your Shout: Viewers' opinions (180434)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (347)
6.30 London Tonight. (Teletext) (927)
7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (1250)
7.30 Inside Crime. John Stalker and Fiona Cates return

CHANNEL

- 6.35am **Heathcliff** (r) (5460182)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (96537)
9.00 **Biker Mice from Mars** (5187076)
9.25 **Mork and Mindy** (r) (5180153)
9.55 **Saved by the Bell: The New Class**. Beking could lose his job (r) (9612989)
10.20 **The Legend of White Fang** (r) (1639540)
10.50 **The Pink Panther Show** (r) (3179434)
11.15 **Little Shop** (r) (5127811) 11.35 **Dennis** (3212231)
12.00 **House to House**. Sheena McDonald reports on events in Westminster (16368)
12.30pm **Seaside Street**. Early-leaving series (56537)
1.30 **Widger** (r) (4759832)
1.55 **Pete Smith Specialties** (b/w). *Cuban Rhythm* and *Merry Jax* (2563238)
2.15 **Phil's Personal** (b/w). (1952, b/w). Comedy, starring Yolande Donlan as a New York shopgirl who inherits a European principality. With Dirk Bogarde. Directed by Val Guest (667785)
4.00 **Think Tank** (Teletext) (r) (540)
4.30 **Fifteen to One** (Teletext) (r) (724)
5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Violent teenage relationships (r). (Teletext) (r) (7770539)
5.50 **Terrytions**. Donkey Oie (170057)
6.00 **The Avengers: The Cybernauts**. Cull series starring Patrick Macnee and Diana Rigg (r). (Teletext) (r) (33521)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) (172637)



Paul Gross and David Marciano (8.00pm)

- 9.00 **Dead South.** Comedy-drama police series, set in Chicago and featuring a displaced Canadian Mountie as the hero. With Paul Goss. David Marciano. (Cestax) (c) [2311144]
- 8.50 **How to be a Little S@x.** Comedy about babies and inexperienced parents. (Cestax) (c) [879231]
- 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** (Cestax), regional news and weather (2347)
- 9.30 **Tomorrow's World Special.** Test Tube Babies... Vienne Party reports on the new world of human organs. (Cestax) (c) [22923] **Weekend Update** (Cestax) (c) [23023] **Tomorrow's World Special** (91057) 10:30 Film: **Naked** 2m (86438085) **12:00am Film: Catholic Boys** (121835) 1.45-2.45 **Snooker** — Grand Prix (435156)
- 10.00 **FILM: Mad Max 2** (1981) starring Mel Gibson. In the aftermath of the Third World War petrol has become the world's most treasured possession. Now, a lonely and exhausted wanderer, armed only with a gun, he produces a community in hostile world. Directed by George Miller. (Cestax) (732521)
- 11.35 **FILM: Catholic Boys** (1985) with Donald Sutherland, John Heard, Andrew McCarthy, Kevin Dillon, Mary Stuart Masterson. An amusing evocation of Catholic high-school life in Brooklyn in the mid 1960s. Directed by Michael Dinner. (Cestax) (390498)
- 1.15am **Snooker** — **Grand Prix.** David Vine presents highlights of the Snooker Grand Prix from Sunderland as the quarter-final line up is decided (c) [867425]
- 2.15 **Weather** (5591233)



Serving up an à la carte menu (8.30pm)

- 8.30** **NEW** Food and Drink presented by Chris Kelly. (CeeFax) (s) (8278)
- 9.00** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Classic comedy from 1973 (s). (CeeFax) (8218)
- 9.30** **NEW** Nice Work: Thank You and Goodbye. (CeeFax) (s) (788811)
- 10.10** **NEW** Tools of the Trade. The disk is the first subject in a lightweight four-part series exploring work. (CeeFax) (s) (878182)
- 10.30** Newswatch with Peter Snow. (CeeFax) (873685)
- 11.15** **NEW** In the Shadow of the Gun (s) (948144)
- 11.55** Weather (397793)
- 12.08** The Midnight Hour with Sarah Baxter. Political chat. (34815)
- 12.30am-6.00** The Learning Zone: Open University — Modelling in the Motor Industry (52533) 1.00 A Level Playing Field? (22106) 1.30 Rover's a Rover: Model Car Management (41729) 2.00 Nightclubs TV: Sex Education and Landmarks — People on the Move (51380) 4.00 BBC Focus: NCET TV — Teaching and Learning with IT (95187) 4.30 Read and Write Together (43596) 5.00 Issue 2000 (90019) 5.30 Film Edition (55545)
- Videotape and the Video PlayerCons**
- The numbers refer to each TV programme, listing the video PlayerCons* numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with the video PlayerCons numbers. Videotape PlayerCons numbers are listed in the Video PlayerCons for the programme you wish to record. For more details on Videotape PlayerCons and PlayerCons with remote controls, see elsewhere at other times or write to VideoPlayerCons, Acorn Ltd, 5 Newbury House, Plantation Way, London SW19 3TW. Videotape* (*), PlayerCons (*) and Video PlayerCons are trademarks of Servatex Development Ltd.



The legacy of Michael Collins (BBC2, 11.15pm)

- Black & White of the Gun**
Channel 2, 11.15pm
- A portrait of the Irish nationalist leader Michael Collins is offered for the parallels it suggests between Collins and Gerry Adams. Collins was a glamorous Guevara figure who took part in the Easter Rising of 1916 and later organised death squads against British troops. As his nephew, also Michael, says: "He met terror terror." But when a truce was called, Collins abandoned himself as a responsible politician prepared to negotiate independence with the British. With the current ceasefire, talk of compromise is again in the air. Gerry Adams will not want to press the analogy, too far. When the 1922 treaty was signed, hardline republicans accused Collins of selling out and on a lonely road they shot him dead.
- Without Walls**
Channel 4, 9.00pm
- Two pure fictions mark the return of Channel 4's arts and culture strand. The subject of the first is the ancient world of off-road vehicles. They started with the leap during the Second World War and Land Rover just after it. Then the Japanese moved in with their versions, though as the film makes clear, the basic formula of boxy shape, chunky tyres and high ground clearance has hardly changed. The irony is that vehicles designed for muddy fields now rarely venture off the tarmac. The second programme is a documentary that is a disjunct against nature history programmes, so often acclaimed as the jewel of television, for being staged, sexist and unhealthily obsessed with violence. **Peter Wymark**



Nicole Arumugam and Patrick Barlow (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Is It Legal? Resignation.** Last in the series for a sitcom about a solicitor's office who discovers that a sandwich-delivery girl Sarah is going away. With Imelda Staunton and Richard Lumsden. s (6705)
- 9.00 **Soldier, Soldier: The Army Game.** Drama series about British Army life. (Teletext) s (6279)
- 10.00 **ITN News** in Ten (Teletext) and weather (19453)
- 10.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) (758453)
- 10.40 **Network** ~~Network~~ **Network First: Fear and Counting in Las Vegas.** (Teletext) s (736076)
- 11.40 **Carlton Sport.** Arsenal face a tough away tie against Division One high-flyers Barnsley and Watford take on unsettled Premiership champions Blackburn Rovers in the third round of the Coca-Cola cup. Highlights from tonight's matches (692790)
- 12.45 **Sam War and Remembrance** (t) (478380)
- 2.40 **Cinema, Cinema, Cinema** (t) s (7026748)
- 3.05 **The Best** s (2766532)
- 4.00 **America's Top Ten** (t) s (90771380)
- 4.25 **On the Live Side** s (44122583)
- 5.35 **Videofashion: Just Fur You** (24846361)
- 5.00 **Nanana** (t) (Teletext) s (87545)
- 5.30 **ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00 (62689)



Juliette Binoche and Jeremy Irons (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film:** *Damage* (1992). A Film on Four Premiere.
Louis Malle's explicitly erotic film of obsession,
scripted by David Hare, Jeremy Irons plays a
married Tony MP who begins a dangerous affair with
Anna (Juliette Binoche) who, coincidentally, is also
involved with his son Marilyn With Miranda
Richardson, Richard Gereaves and Leslie Caron.
(Telefe) (t) (18556724)
- 12.05m Nurses: Rude Awakenings.** Dr Rishkan
declares unyielding love for a recently awakened
coma patient (r). (Telefe) (s) (8974361)
- 12.25 Football Italia - Mezzanotte.** Sampdoria v
Fiorentina in Serie A (S232941)
- 1.35 World Trends.** Thomas Muster plays Boris Becker
and Michael Stich in Vienna, while Andre Agassi and
Pete Sampras compete in Lyons (S398982)
- 2.05 The Sahara Project.** Film episode of an eight-part
German ecological series. In which Hans-Joachim Bechir
is transformed by left-wing extremists while, in Rome,
Tom and Thomas Attenberg are using subterfuge to
acquire development funds. Dubbed in English
(9786106). Ends at 3.05

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SATELLITE

- Guido (7937415) 7.30 *Golden Voyage* (832178)
 8.00 *Across the World* (118283) 8.30 *Travel*
 8.30 *World* (118415) 9.00 *Play'd* (31)
 (4610724) 9.30 *Independent Travelers*
 Guido (4774705) 10.30 *Wander* (201598)
 11.00 *Travelogue* (201599) 12.30-2.00
American Adventure (437150)
- TLC**
- 8.00am *Tonight* (7835369) 9.30 *Madeleine*
 (7041434) 10.30 *Grow Your Greens*
 (1558720) 10.30 *Will it Hurt?* (785453)
 11.00 *Harmon* (785454) 12.00-2.00
With Us (1865659) 3.00 *The Right Thing?*
 (7815708) 12.30pm *Jimmy J* (7406250) 1.00
Joe Raposo (740627) 3.00 *Toycraft* (740627)
 2.00 *Porter's Project* (8320276) 3.30 *Soul*
 Meats (785455) 4.00 *Grow Your Greens*
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- UK GOLD**
- 7.00am *News* (8347759) 7.30 *Neighbours*
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Casualty (5174870) 11.00 *Edge of*
Delirious (8303359) 12.00am *Dr. Who*
Companion (7812631) 2.10am
Shipping (874888)
- TCC**
- 6.00am *Seaside Story* (18640) 7.00 *Bunny*
 (80592) 8.00 *Seaside Story* (18640) 9.00
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Divided reformist parties face losses in Russian election

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

AS MANY as 45 parties and factions across the political spectrum will contest the forthcoming Russian parliamentary elections. The campaign promises to be both chaotic and controversial.

Voters will be able to choose from among Communist hardliners, nationalists and even "best losers" when they go to the polls on December 17 to elect a new Duma, the lower house of parliament.

But it is not yet clear how many of the parties will be recognised by the Electoral Commission which campaigning officially begins a week from today. Some parties reportedly paid bribes or made threats to gain the necessary 200,000 signatures to register. The authorities are still investigating some 85 candidates suspected by the police of belonging to the criminal underworld and allegedly seeking seats to achieve immunity from prosecution.

Eight mainstream parties

have already been approved, and will probably win most of the vote. Russian opinion polls are notoriously unreliable, but nearly every big recent survey suggests that Communists and their left-wing allies, together with nationalist parties, will dominate the Duma after the elections.

Experts believe that only a handful of parties can expect to cross the 5 per cent threshold necessary to take a place in the Duma. The Communists, led by the young and pragmatic Gennadi Zyuganov, have so

Arms cargo held

Moscow: Russian customs officials have seized a train bound for North Korea with an illegal cargo of anti-aircraft weapons from Kazakhstan.

The train did not have a permit for transporting a military cargo, Interfax said yesterday. (AFP)

far made the strongest showing. Allied to the Communists are the Agrarians, representing the powerful agricultural sector.

Yabloko, the liberal faction led by Grigori Yavlinsky, is the only party from the divided reformist camp likely to maintain and possibly improve its standing. The other factions, which four years ago dominated government and spearheaded reform, are likely to be big losers.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, winner of nearly a third of the vote last time, may also lose support through having to share the nationalist vote with the Congress of Russian Communities.

To offset the strong showing by opposition forces, the Government hopes that Our Home Is Russia, headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, will secure enough seats to block their dominance in the legislature.



Eberhard Diepgen, the Mayor of Berlin, with Helmut Kohl in Bonn yesterday

Berliners punish feuding SPD

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

LEADERS of the Social Democrats, Germany's main opposition party, which suffered its worst election results for 50 years in state polls in Berlin on Sunday, struggled yesterday to halt the decline of their party.

As the party's executive gathered in Bonn yesterday to assess the damage, the focus shifted to the future of Rudolf Scharping, the SPD's uncharismatic leader, who will today face further embarrassment when his name goes forward for re-election as parliamentary leader. Although Herr Scharping is likely to survive, if by just a few votes, he will have to shoulder most of the blame for the party's disastrous losses in Berlin. The party slumped to a postwar low point of 23.3 per cent of the vote as opposed to 37.4 per cent for the Christian Democrats (CDU) of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the eastern German reformed communists, attracted 14.6 per cent. The Greens achieved 13.2 per cent while the Free Democrats (FDP) failed to reach the minimum 5 per cent, thereby

eliminating it from the capital's parliament. Herr Scharping's failure to bring his party closer together will no doubt be exploited by his main rival, Gerhard Schröder, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, who has ignored calls for unity among the party faithful. German commentators believe that the Berlin result could signal the beginning of the end of Herr Scharping's political career.

There was widespread agreement in the party that the bickering over the national leadership did little to help the leading SPD candidate in Berlin, Ingrid Stahmer, a local senator, in her fight against Eberhard Diepgen, the governing Mayor. The Social Democrats have also suffered from the decline of their old working-class base.

The only small consolation is that the party will join the CDU in a ruling coalition in the Berlin state parliament. If Herr Kohl were to move the national Government to Berlin tomorrow, he would feel equally at home as on the Rhine where he continues to carry the mantle as Europe's longest-serving leader.

Moscow unlocks its musical treasures

BY RICHARD BRESTON

RUSSIA has finally agreed to open a musical treasure chest of hundreds of thousands of recordings dating back 60 years, in a deal described as one of the most important cultural projects of the century.

After years of disputes and legal wrangling, an American music company and a British distributor have won exclusive rights to release as many as 400,000 recordings, hitherto sealed in the former Soviet state musical archives.

"The Russian Government has given the full go-ahead at last," said Tristan Del, the chairman of Phoenix Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based company, which has been battling for three years to complete the deal. "The first

release will most likely be at the beginning of next year."

Jack Dorsey, a British music producer, said that some recordings were badly decayed, but said restoration was possible. "This can be complicated and expensive, but with the latest technology we have achieved some spectacular results," he said.

Although no figure was released, Mr Del estimated the recordings to be worth some £6 billion. Britain's Telstar Records will handle distribution.

The recordings, some of which go back to the 1930s, include performances by Arthur Schnitzler, Yehudi Menuhin and Luciano Pavarotti. Among the Russian artists featured are composers Dmitri Shostakovich and Modest Rostropovich, and pianists Emil Gilels and Svyatoslav Richter. Mr Del made clear that royalties would be paid to the artists involved, many of whom were never properly recompensed under Communist rule.

In negotiating the deal, Phoenix Entertainment faced what it described as "tremendous opposition and disinformation". The scheme was widely attacked in the media and by politicians who accused the authorities of selling off one of Russia's greatest cultural treasures.



Shostakovich: a chance to hear past recordings

Ophthalmologists then off to see the sights.

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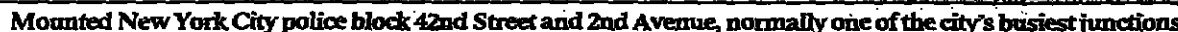
Working Together

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

"It is not sustainable for member states to enjoy representation without taxation,"

He complained that the UN was too slow to close old agencies when new ones were created, and proposed that some bodies should be scrapped. British officials singled out for particular scrutiny the UN Conference on Trade and Development, as well as

Later yesterday Mr Major was to hold talks with President Menem in the first meeting of British and Argentine leaders since the 1982 Falklands conflict. Señor Menem told reporters that his country now enjoyed "excellent" relations with Britain and that their dispute over the Falklands had been placed "under an umbrella".



BY JAMES BONE

THE security cordon round the UN's fiftieth anniversary celebrations was punctured briefly yesterday by a Greenpeace protester who jumped off a nearby bridge with a parachute.

The escapade, timed to coincide with an address by Jacques Chirac, the French President, was the most troubling test yet of the extensive security effort now under way in New York.

history for the largest gathering of world leaders ever — more than 140 Kings, Presidents and Prime Ministers have arrived in New York for the three-day UN fete — has closed the East Side of midtown Manhattan to the point where a half-mile stretch of First Avenue is now used only as a car park for scores of police vehicles.

Miami: After President Clinton announced on Sunday that he was freezing the assets of known drug barons, the trial of Miami's two most notorious "narcos" opened yesterday. (David Adams writes).

Augusto Salazar and Salvador Magluta are charged with importing 75 tonnes of cocaine between 1978 and 1991.

Efforts to bring them to trial were frustrated by new business fronts and secret bank accounts, a fate many expect to befall Mr Clinton's initiative.

Washington: The Republican foes of President Clinton on Capitol Hill will open hearings today into "Travelgate" (Ian Brodie writes). This concerns the abrupt dismissal more than two years ago of all seven White House travel office employees and their replacement by a distant cousin of Mr Clinton and other people interested in obtaining lucrative contracts for White House travel charters.

**FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON**

THE American adoration for Baroness Thatcher found its bizarrrest manifestation last night when more than 600 celebrities paid \$1,000 (£640) a head to observe her 70th birthday in a railway terminus.

Union Station in Washington is a flamboyant mixture of classical and art deco; but there was a sense that devotees would have dined on a platform at St Pancras if Lady Thatcher was at the head table.

Devotion in America for the Iron Lady in America has grown during her five years out of office. "I have always admired the lady," she has something which appeals to us all here — I guess women even more than men," said Deirdre Blackwood, a congressional staff member.

Newly Gingrich, Phil Gramm and Malcolm Forbes Jr. joined Barbara Walters and Joan Rivers, the television luminaries, at the dinner. Ronald Reagan's wife Nancy and Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian Prime Minister, offered tributes.

Underwritten with \$1 million by Philip Morris, the American cigarette manufacturers, all proceeds will go to the Thatcher Foundation.

Washington: Pete Wilson, the Governor of California, who was unable to find enough support for his own presidential ambitions, endorsed Senator Robert Dole, the front-runner, for the Republican nomination (Tom Rhodes writes). Mr. Wilson is expected to serve as the Dole campaign general chairman, having declined the nomination for Vice President.

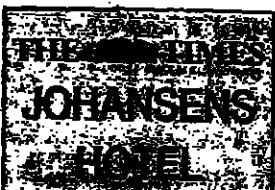
Vienna: Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General, hopes Washington will remove the "undesirable alien" status blocking his entry into the US over his wartime activities, according to an interview published here. Dr. Waldheim, who headed the UN from 1972 to 1981, told the daily *Kurier* that the US made a mistake. (AFP)

New York: President Clinton faces a difficult meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China: today (Martin Fletcher writes). The White House changed the venue to the Lincoln Centre after the Chinese discovered that the New York Public Library had an exhibition referring to the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

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The Times offers you savings of up to 50 per cent on short breaks at 340 Johnsen's recommended hotels, inns and country houses throughout Great Britain and Ireland, including castles, old rectories, country houses, farms and inns, such as the Nanny Bowe hotel (above), which offer superior standards of accommodation and the finest cuisine.

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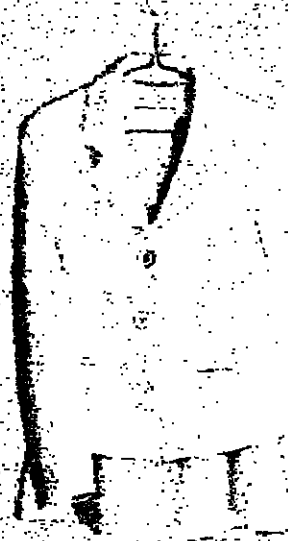
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Roosevelt estate gives US summit a sense of history

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AT HYDE PARK, NEW YORK STATE

PRESIDENT Clinton brought President Yeltsin to Hyde Park for their ninth meeting yesterday, clearly hoping that the spirit of Franklin Roosevelt's wonderfully tranquil estate would help to surmount his guests' objections to Nato's eastward expansion and to American appeals for securing the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The estate, overlooking the Hudson River, is rife with memories of America's co-operation with Russia during the Second World War and Mr Clinton missed no opportunity to point them out to his Russian guest.

A fleet of helicopters ferried the two leaders and their aides up from Manhattan, 90 miles to the south. Mr Clinton greeted Mr Yeltsin with a bear hug after the Russian landed on a sweep of sun-soaked lawn ringed by the glorious colours of the autumnal trees.

The two men chatted enthusiastically as they walked 200

yards to the 35-room mansion, laughing and slapping each other on the back.

The American President showed Mr Yeltsin various Roosevelt memorabilia, including wartime cables to Stalin and the hat and cloak that Roosevelt wore at the Yalta summit.

Mr Clinton presented Mr Yeltsin with a leather-bound book of Roosevelt's "fireside chats" inscribed "with high hopes that we can make permanent the friendship and co-operation that meant so much to our people in World War Two".

Mr Yeltsin gave his host two Moscow Penguins ice hockey jerseys, one with "Clinton" on the front and the other with "Yeltsin". On the back of both garments were the figures 96, referring to next year's presidential elections in both countries.

The two leaders sat outside the place where Roosevelt was born and buried for the benefit

of photographers. Roosevelt had adored the place; four times he stood on its terrace to acknowledge his presidential victories and he used it as his summer White House. He returned to the estate to unwind more than 200 times during his 12-year presidency.

It was here that Roosevelt introduced King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, to the great American hot dog in 1939. Even at the war's height he found time to write to his estates manager complaining about the exorbitant price of a silo. In 1944, sick and exhausted by the strain of the war, he wrote: "All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River."

Roosevelt died the following year and his grave is in a rose garden adjacent to the house. He bequeathed his home and estate to the nation. It is now a national park and contains the first of America's presidential libraries.

Harlem cheers 'hero' Castro

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK



President Castro sporting his trademark fatigues at a Baptist church in Harlem

cries of "Viva Fidel" rang through Harlem when President Castro, the Cuban dictator so disliked by many Americans, visited one district in the United States where he can count on a warm welcome. His rambling speech at a black Harlem church duly met with cheers.

Senior Castro was returning to the rundown New York neighbourhood where he stayed as a young firebrand in 1960. To recapture a little of the excitement of former days he changed out of the suit he wore for his speech at the United Nations and into his trademark fatigues. The crowd whooped as the old revolutionary ran through a familiar list of accusations.

"We will never change, because we were right," said Senior Castro, 69, illustrating his speech with declamatory gestures. He ridiculed America, scorned her anti-Cuban policies and attacked officialdom, which has largely snubbed him on his first visit

to the United States since 1979. This rejection ensured him the support of Harlem's blacks.

"As people of African descent, we understand that kind of ill-treatment," the Rev Calvin Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, said. Outside, a large number of people who had failed to gain admittance held up pro-Castro banners and awaited

his re-emergence. "As I drove to Harlem, people were doing this," said Senior Castro, making a thumbs-down sign. "But when I got to Harlem — and here, to cheers, he turned his thumb up — 'I saw everyone doing this'."

He criticised Washington's trade embargo on Havana and, cheekily, offered Cuban aid to poor America. "If in any neighbourhood you don't have a doctor, our doctors will come to work here," he said. At the other end of town, however, Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, regretted such "romantic fascination" with a "ruthless dictator", and Senior Castro's estranged daughter, Alina Fernández Revuelta, accused him of being "a man with a monologue — he has been saying the same things since 1959".

Agency for food told to slim

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

AMERICA yesterday told the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to cut costs.

Echoing President Clinton's weekend message to the anniversary meeting, Richard Rominger, the US Deputy Agriculture Secretary, told the agency's governing conference in Rome that Washington still backed its work but wanted it to trim spending.

The agency, meanwhile, said in an annual report that the gains of increased trade had been extremely uneven and world markets were "plagued" by distortive intervention and protection in old and new forms.

"There is a global economic recovery under way — but millions of people, mainly in African countries that are less well integrated into the world economy, are yet to see its benefits," wrote the director-general, Jacques Diouf.

Before his speech, Mr Rominger said America wanted the agency budget to be \$600 million (£380,000) — nearly \$100 million less than that proposed by M Diouf. The conference will vote on Friday.

Power-lunch women let the men go thirsty

IT WAS, arguably, the real power lunch. Spouses of the world leaders left their better halves to the talking yesterday and attended a lunch at the Metropolitan Art Museum.

Arne Brundtland was the only First Gentleman amid a scented swamp of First Ladies.

Hillary Clinton welcomed counterparts and other prominent women, from Her Excellency Mrs Nana Agyeman Rawlings, wife of the Ghanaian flight lieutenant, to Mrs Edith Bongo of Gabon, two Cambodian princesses and Queen Noor of Jordan.

Norma Major was on the best table, wearing a smart cream and black suit. She said she might try to shop while in New York — "to buy some records", explained Mrs Major, an authority on opera.

The African and oriental

ing at a coffee station, wondering how it worked. He compared them to promising school footballers who, on being promoted to a stronger league, suddenly find they are not so special after all.

MRS BRUNDTLAND'S medical knowledge was called on en route to New York when a passenger on her flight suffered heart problems off the coast of Iceland and the crew asked for help.

It turned out there were three doctors on board, including the 42-year-old male patient, and they decided the best course was for the Boeing 767 to detour to Iceland. Mrs Brundtland, Norway's Prime Minister, who left medicine for politics almost 20 years ago, held the man in her arms to comfort him. The patient left hospital later to continue his journey.

SOMEWHERE between his room at the Waldorf and the UN, Yasser Arafat managed to lose his security pass. The PLO leader was heard to ask, worriedly, if he would be allowed into the building without it. "Don't worry, Mr Arafat," an official said, passing an eye over the familiar scarf and that wispy beard. "I think the guards will probably recognise you."

AMID the ludicrously heavy security, a wedding took place. The happy couple, Shirley and Dennis Wong, had chosen this weekend a year ago for their wedding, little realising that the Church Centre on First Avenue would be sealed off by Secret Service agents. Happily the cordon sanitaire was lifted to allow the bridal party through. One of the agents was even seen to throw some confetti.

QUENTIN LETTS

Jiang and Clinton in brief encounter

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TODAY'S New York summit between President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China will last just one-and-a-half hours. This is a brief encounter for the leader of a country with which, according to Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, "the United States has no more important relationship".

In Mr Clinton's nomination speech he referred to "the bachelors of Beijing". Since then, Peking has correctly discerned Washington's hand behind the vote against China's applications to stage the

2000 Olympics and to join the World Trade Organisation, and noted Congress's admiration for Taiwan.

America says that Peking must stop selling nuclear technology to regimes it regards as outlaws. It also wants China to leave political dissidents alone, stop menacing Taiwan and Hong Kong, abandon the piracy of copyright and be kinder to Tibet.

China regards such demands as affronts to its sovereignty and its military is pressing Mr Jiang to warn off Mr Clinton.

Self Assessment

It's time to tidy up your tax affairs.

Are you getting your house in order, ready for Self Assessment?

If you are self-employed, the changes will certainly affect you. For instance, if you own a business which employs others, are in a partnership (including husband and wife partnerships), a sole person business working from home, or self-employed in one job and employed in another.

It will also apply to everyone else who normally receives a tax return including higher rate tax payers, company directors and some pensioners.

Self Assessment is not a new tax. Just a more straightforward way of assessing and paying it. The first Self Assessment tax returns will be sent out in April 1997 for the tax year 1996/97.

That may seem a long way off but you'll need to get your tax affairs up to date well before then. If you have any outstanding tax business, don't keep putting it off, sort it out. Or if you're not clear about your tax situation, get in touch with your tax office or accountant to find out exactly where you stand. It will make the change-over to Self Assessment that much easier.

And remember, you must keep adequate records. It's a good idea to have a tax file and keep everything together that might be useful such as receipts, dividend vouchers and other important documents.

Failing to comply with the new rules could cost you interest and penalties. To help you avoid this, there'll be a clear timetable setting out exactly what you need to do and by when.

Self Assessment doesn't mean you'll have to work out your own tax bill. We'll be happy to do it for you. But if you want to do the calculation yourself you'll have a bit longer to get your tax return in.

With any change — even for the better — we understand you may have questions or concerns. We've prepared some free booklets and a video to help you. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains why doctors need to be alert to complaints of chest pain or unexplained indigestion

Ethnic variation in heart disease

ABOUT 25 years ago, driving to the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka to view their medical students' final examinations, we were repeatedly held up by funeral processions. My attention was drawn to the age of those who had died, for there was a disproportionate number of early middle-aged men.

My companion, the professor of cardiology at the university, suggested that many of the premature deaths would have been from coronary heart disease. Nobody who has seen these desolate groups of mourners would ever thereafter be likely to dismiss a complaint of chest pain, or unexplained indigestion, in an Asian patient.

In the early Seventies in Sri Lanka, too great a fondness for coconut oil was held

responsible for the high death rate from cardiovascular disease; in other parts of the Indian sub-continent the liberal use of saturated fats, including ghee, in the diet was blamed. Everywhere on the sub-continent — and in Britain where the phenomenon of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease had been noticed in immigrants — their lack of exercise and obesity, particularly central obesity with an apple-like chest and abdomen and stick-like limbs, were thought to be the important factors.

A review of the present situation

among Asian immigrants to Britain by Dr Sandeep Gupta, a British Heart Foundation research fellow at St George's Hospital, London, Dr Adam Belder of the King's Healthcare Trust, and Dr Liam Hughes, a consultant cardiologist at the Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare Trust, is published in this week's *British Medical Journal*. In 1977 it was noticed that there was a 40 per cent excess incidence of coronary thrombosis among Asians



admitted to hospital in Leicester, and in 1989 a study showed that Gujarati Indian men had four times the risk of north European men and were younger at the time of their first attack. There is a similar disparity between the incidence of heart disease in Asian women and those of northern European stock. Other studies have confirmed these findings.

Any increased risk of heart disease cannot be wholly explained by racial

differences in the total cholesterol concentration in the blood, high blood pressure or smoking. The biochemistry of the blood may, however, hold the clue. Analysis of the blood of people of Asian stock reveals that they tend to show increased levels of triglycerides (a fat), coupled with too little of the high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (the so-called good cholesterol) and too high a blood level of insulin in both fasting and non-fasting patients. Associated with this is a high incidence of non-insulin-dependent diabetes in the Asian community.

People of whatever race who have an unusual resistance to the biochemical effects of insulin are known to be coronary-prone. This disadvantage can be modified by choosing a diet which is much less rich in fat and refined carbohydrates.

The BMJ writers also suggest that it might be worthwhile to encourage Asian patients to take more regular exercise, and to be aware of their coronary heart disease risk, so that diagnosis may be made earlier.

It is difficult to discover how migration affects heart disease in those from the Indian sub-continent, as immigration is often associated with improved standards of living. There is a suggestion that Western life may potentiate it.

Highs and lows of an illness

Manic depressives do need drugs, but they can help themselves too, says psychologist Ian Robertson

You feel on top of the world — spunky, witty and a delight to be with. Creative ideas sizzle in your mind. You are elated and bursting with so much energy that you barely need to sleep. In short, life is electric and wonderful — but there is a price to pay.

"I've never had a high without the low to follow it," admits Dr Christopher Manning, a Middlesex GP and manic depression sufferer.

"My nickname at medical school was 'Manic Manning' and I always tended to be the life and soul of the party," he says. "But after these highs I would feel low and vulnerable."

While much less common than simple depression, manic depression can be even more disabling. According to the Manic Depression Fellowship one in seven people, if left untreated, will commit suicide.

It can run in families — the close relatives of sufferers having approximately a one-in-ten risk (or ten times the normal rate) of developing the illness themselves. Women are

twice as likely to be sufferers. Victims have included the composer Schumann and the late Jeremy Brett, who played Sherlock Holmes.

The condition involves dramatic swings between moods of great elation during which the patient may embark on grandiose projects, often spending large sums of money, and moods of paralysing despair. The key to treatment lies in controlling these swings, both through drugs and self-management.

This week the Fellowship is publishing a guide to self-management that has been approved by the Department of Health and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The author is a sufferer himself, and it is based on his own and the experiences of others.

It is vital for patients to recognise their particular signs of imminent mood swings. According to the guide very few people go high or low overnight so they should have time to notice what is happening. The start of a low may be heralded by symptoms such as tiredness, poor concentration, changes of appetite, early wak-

ing with anxiety, loss of sex drive or hating yourself — while a high may be preceded by hyperactivity, rapid speech, feeling unusually happy, uninhibited sexual behaviour, overspending and talking fast.

After years of up and down moods, Dr Manning, who is married with three children, remembers clearly the moment in 1988 when something changed dramatically. He had been a GP for two years and was chatting to one of his receptionists, when he felt a pressure growing in his chest and the sensation as if his head was splitting apart. "It was like something had twanged inside me," he says. "I had a tremendous feeling of distance from everything



Dr Christopher Manning: "I suffered terrible levels of agitation and I couldn't get the nursery rhyme 'Diddle Diddle Dumpling' out of my head, it just went round and round."

around me. I went back into the surgery aware that something very important had happened."

A psychiatrist diagnosed depression, but despite taking antidepressants, Dr Manning still woke up early in the morning feeling tense and low. The tightness in his chest continued and he lost weight. But then his mood began to lift the other way and frantic activity took over. "I suffered levels of agitation beyond all bounds — it was quite terrible," he remembers. "I could not get the nursery rhyme 'Diddle diddle dumpling, my son John' out of my head. It just went on and on," he recalls.

After a few months, with the help of a psychiatrist and a

psychiatric nurse, Dr Manning returned to work on a combination of drugs to control his depression and his mood swings. "My nurse, Tony Murphy, kept me together during that time. He visited me twice a week. There was this terrible fear of madness."

Once early warning signs have been recognised the self-help guide underlines that they must be taken seriously. Whereas this probably won't be a problem when a patient is getting depressed, when a high is coming on he or she "may feel inclined to enjoy it".

As Dr Manning says: "Except when you get that terrible brain-racing feeling, the highs can be wonderful." Indeed, he stopped taking lithium (the drug which is most commonly used to stabilise mood) because "it made me miss the good times".

"When I see patients who are on an upswing, I don't want to pull them down from it. But then the family comes in, and the first thing I see is that they look completely exhausted, and I realise why I have to do something."

Once signs of mood change

have been recognised and taken seriously, the sufferer needs techniques to stop it spiralling out of control.

The guide is full of sensible suggestions — cut out stimulants such as coffee, take medication, try to keep a normal sleep pattern, avoid major decisions such as leaving a job, put a ceiling on your financial spending and actively calm yourself with whatever methods suit the individual.

Dr Manning says: "One of my methods is to say to myself: 'Slow down, boy, if I find I am beginning to zip about too much. Or I play a couple of slow and deliberate games of solitaire. If I find myself

becoming depressed, I force myself to stick to my routines, to go through with things even if I don't feel like it, to activate myself."

He still takes antidepressants, though these had a toll. "I was slowed up, constipated, had a dry mouth and poor balance. I could only drive at 30 to 40 mph because otherwise everything came just too fast for me," he says. "The final straw came when I was driving up the M1 in the inside lane at 40mph in my Metro when a little old lady in a Range Rover pulling a trailer came up behind me and began flashing her lights to get me to move on. I decided I had to do something about the drugs I was on."

A change to one of the modern Prozac-type drugs got rid of these unpleasant side-effects, though Dr Manning still has to monitor his mood swings.

"I bought a £2,000 computer system last week," he says. "Other people spend that kind of money without having to justify it. But I have to ask myself 'is this me or is it the illness?'"

"I yearn for the balance which would mean I didn't have to ask that question."

Inside Out: a guide to self-management of manic depression is available from the Manic Depression Fellowship, 8-10 High Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EY (£2 plus 50p postage). 0181-949 6550.

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After another riding tragedy, **Walter Ellis** reports on the perils of the jumps

cause to say of a former lover, "This woman's an easy glove, my lord; she goes off and on at pleasure". Or you may suggest to Michael Portillo a line for his next conference address: "France is a dog-hole."

"We had the idea one night in Cambridge," Mr Hill says. "We had been to a performance of *'Twelfth Night*, which is full of abuse, and we found ourselves cursing each other on the way home in a kind of mock-Shakespearean language. When we got home we took out the complete works and went through it underlining the insults."

They found more than 10,000, 5,000 of which they distilled into the final draft. "We contacted a local printer, made up a cover, and began to hawk it round the bookshops. Now, with the main business sold off, we are concentrating on the teaching side of the project."


There is a kit for teachers which suggests tasks for students involving insults from Shakespeare. "The language was always seen as the difficult part of Shakespeare, the barrier which made him inaccessible to kids. But, by getting them involved in the wonders of the

language like this, they can be drawn into the plays through the words. I have heard of children chastising each other round the playground shouting 'Thou disease of a friend!'

Thus, with luck, we will breed a new race of adults who, instead of raising a cursing finger in their rear-view mirror, and hurling four-letter obscenities from their car windows when you presume to overtake, will cry instead: "Thou art a boil, a plague-sore, or embossed carbuncle in my corrupted blood."

For the world is ever full of venom. But, with a little help from Shakespeare, it need not always make that world an uglier place.

Why women want equality, not supremacy



to the property of men whom they are not married a vile attack on the male sex an instance of the Government's craven acquiescence political correctness, militarism feminists and male-hating powermongers. Well, I don't quite see it myself.

Take the reaction to the proposed Bill to allow unmarried women the same rights to their partner's property as

For one thing, if two people live together, both contributing to the upkeep of a house, I don't see why it is wrong to take that joint financial effort into consideration. I must say, though, that I think it is pretty foolish for any person to contribute to the rent or a mortgage for any length of time on an unofficial basis. But people trust those they love, and presume love them back, and they don't foresee the day when the comfortable, trusting arrangement turns in to the worst sort of backstabbing, financial wrangling. Perhaps it's time they got wise.

Still, the notion that women think of men as a meal-ticket

for life, even easier to get their claws into now they no longer have to drag them down the aisle, is quite fabulously wide of the mark. Only 3.4 per cent of households have men as the sole earner in them; and this figure is for when there are children involved. Men are no longer the breadwinners and providers of homes; and they seem to be having difficulties coming to terms with this.

They are not the only ones: right as it is not to treat unmarried people unjustly, it is as wrong to continue to insist, legally, that a woman must be a man's financial responsibility. If a couple splits up, whether they be married or not, why should the man have to give money to the woman, over and above the distribution of financial benefits accrued jointly? Where there are children concerned it is a different matter. Nicky Faldo evidently feels his wife and children deserve half his fortune, and I wouldn't gain-say that. But the obligation to pay alimony to a wife, just because she has been a wife, should be dropped.

IT IS HIDEOUSLY unfair, and unhelpful to women even as it rewards them: we can put bread in our mouths, roofs over our own heads; it is injurious to all parties to pretend it is otherwise. Children are dependants; women are not. What we need to do is abolish this inequality, not spread it out as if more fairly across the board. When someone has a just claim, that claim must be heard; but the marriage certificate is irrelevant. It is a great mistake to confuse justice with status. Change the law by all means, but change it both ways.



The thrills and spills

Deaths in boxing, although rare in fact, have come to seem almost a commonplace in recent years. Each time a boxer dies in the ring, his brain beaten senseless by an opponent's fist, the cry goes up to ban the sport.

team chasing on Sunday when his mount fell, pinning its rider beneath him, causing serious injury.

Oddly, no such liberal imprecations have ever been issued over showjumping or National Hunt racing — except of course in respect of alleged cruelty to horses. But, as witnessed last weekend, any sport involving animals weighing half a ton or more is inherently dangerous, and possibly deadly.

In the summer, Christopher Reeve, the actor who played Superman, was thrown from his horse while hunting and is now paralysed.

William Shand Kydd, brother-in-law of the missing Lord Lucan and former brother-in-law of Mrs Frances Shand Kydd, mother of the Princess of Wales, was engaged in the arcane pursuit of

Both Shand Kydd and Reeve are known as fearless, if not reckless, horsemen, but the fact is that it could happen to anyone.

What is surprising, in the circumstances, is not how many injuries there are, but how few. In 1993, the last year for which official figures are available, just five male and seven female riders were killed while riding in the UK. This is out of a total of 3.3 million regular participants, a ratio of 1:278,000.

ers and winner of this year's Windsor Ladies championship, says that if she thought what she was doing was dangerous, she wouldn't do it.

"Friends of mine have taken tumbles over the years — breaking arms and collarbones and so on, nothing too serious. I am always careful. I would never accept a horse I didn't trust. But if we worked on the basis that this was a dangerous sport in which we were likely to be killed, that would be an end to it."

versal — which is where the greatest risk factor comes in. National Hunt jockeys have nerves of steel. It is not just the horses who suffer over the jumps. After a fall, jockeys risk being cut to pieces by the flying hooves of oncoming steeds and one of the essential skills of a champion is getting out of the way of danger fast, avoiding stricken rivals.

Round the country, a similar ethos prevails. Much of the pleasure is derived from the fact that those taking part are doing something totally divorced from their everyday lives.

Dr Michael Turner, chief medical adviser to the Jockey Club, notes that National Hunt jockeys suffer a fall in one out of every 14 races, compared with one in every 350 or so in flat racing. Yet the last jockey to be killed in the UK was Steve Wood, on the flat, at Lingfield last year.

Knowing what to do is obviously useful, but not uni-

arms and legs, broken collar-bones, crushed or fractured pelvises

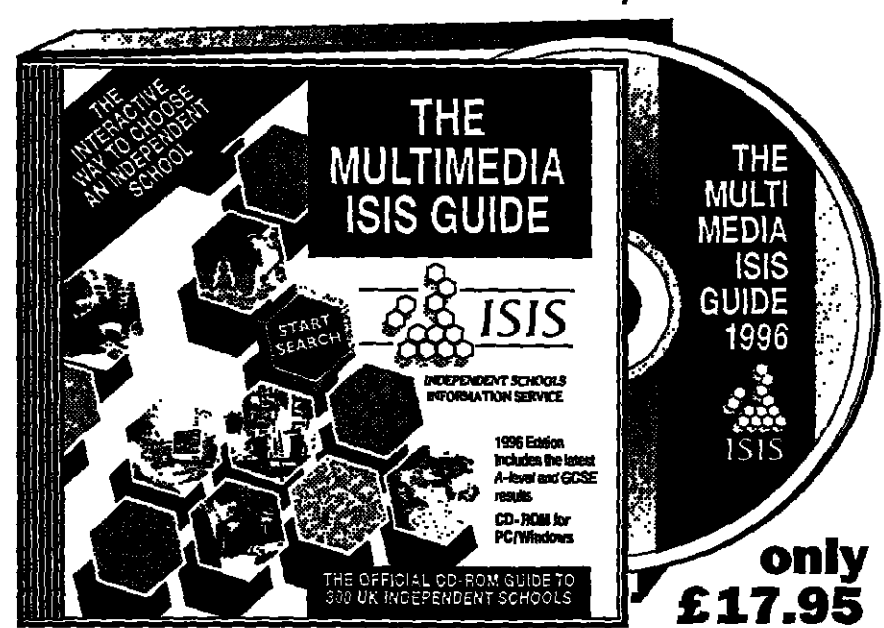
Andrew Finding, secretary general of the British Showjumping Association, who attended Sunday's team chase event at which Shand Kydd was injured, equates top level horsemanship with mountaineering: "The challenge is part of the excitement."

He is convinced, however, that the risks are reasonable. "As long as there has been acceptable course construction and proper medical support there is no reason why people should not continue to enjoy their sport."

This is surely right. Christopher Reeve, crippled in his wheelchair, regrets bitterly what has happened to him; but there is little doubt that given the chance, he would quickly be back on his horse.

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Making a scandal out of a scare

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh says the Pill problem had to be publicised

The Committee on Safety of Medicines has been much criticised for issuing 190,000 premature and unnecessarily alarmist letters asking GPs and pharmacists to review the contraceptive prescriptions of 1.5 million British women. In a formal complaint, the British Medical Association has accused the Department of Health (which acted entirely on the committee's advice) of creating an epidemic of anxiety among pill-takers, and of conducting a shameful and thinly veiled exercise in cost-cutting.

But consider a hypothetical opposite case. Imagine that the committee has come across unexpected evidence which strongly suggests that seven of the leading brands of oral contraceptive are associated with a doubling of the risk of potentially fatal complications. The evidence is scientifically robust and consistent in the 17 countries studied. At least five women in Britain have already died of these drug-related complications, despite being young and healthy, with no known additional risk factors. The complications are very rare, but the large number of women still

Rawlins (the current chairman) all represented indelicate but entirely laudable attempts to operate in a new culture of openness.

So was the letter alarmist? Did it, after its inevitable leak to the press, create an epidemic of anxiety? The women I have seen and advised over the past five days have certainly not been hysterical. They simply wanted my help in converting the warning, which was couched in general terms, into a decision about their personal contraceptive choices. Most of them spent less than three minutes in my surgery or on the phone to me. Dealing with problems like this is exactly what I and my fellow GPs are paid for.

Research has shown that most doctors repeatedly overestimate the benefits and underestimate the risks of the drugs they prescribe; and they also overestimate patients' willingness to expose themselves to these risks.

The decision to put a woman on the Pill requires complex epidemiological evidence to be interpreted in the context of her personal circumstances and priorities. The doctor's role is to supply accurate and up-to-date information in a language which the woman can understand, but the final decision should and must rest with the woman herself. Over the past few days, women taking the Pill have needed more information, not less.

This research is for the public, not just doctors

means it is possible that others will die. Effective, affordable and less dangerous alternatives are already on the market. The committee decides to watch and wait, and the Government agrees to commission a new report (which could be six months in preparation) before sending out secret letters to all doctors a month before informing the patients.

As this alternative shows, last week's so-called fiasco is exactly what consumer pressure groups have been demanding of the committee since its inception 25 years ago. Until relatively recently, it was considered inevitable that there would be a substantial delay between the committee declaring a medicinal drug dangerous and the implementation of measures to reduce its unnecessary consumption. But the public, whenever it got to hear of such delays, was rightly outraged.

It has long been argued by pressure groups that the co-con of secrecy enjoyed by both the Medicines Control Agency (which grants licences for new drugs) and the Committee on the Safety of Medicines (which reviews the safety of products already on the market) is not only unnecessary but potentially harmful, and would be illegal in countries such as the United States which have comprehensive freedom of information laws.

The latest information about third-generation combined oral contraceptives should be in the public domain, not in the locked drawers of senior doctors and politicians. Last week's impulsive letter to doctors and pharmacists (issued only hours after analysis of the data was complete, the hurried and hampered press conferences and the multiple television appearances of a bewildered and exhausted Professor Michael

It is not scandalous that a letter was released last week, or that the Government listened well to its professional advisers. But it is scandalous that many doctors seem to be making light of the increased risk associated with these drugs; it is scandalous that the British Medical Association persists in playing God and making information from patients "for their own good"; and finally it is scandalous that the editors of medical journals to which the research has been submitted have apparently not given priority to its publication.

In my opinion, the action taken was commendably swift and consistent with the principles listed in the Patients' Charter, to offer the best available medical care promptly and equitably, and to support patients in making informed choices about their treatment options.

So what lessons can the committee learn for next time? First, the reaction of the media to such a sensitive issue could have been anticipated, and a more informative and comprehensive press pack should have been prepared. Secondly, information that appears to be of purely scientific interest will be taken up and used for the commercial and political motives of a host of vested interests. And finally, if it continues its new policy of laying its cards on the table before press and public, the committee should expect no support from the rank and file of the British Medical Association.



The Lottery lottery

There must be more equitable ways to distribute these windfalls

In a lifelong personal effort not to become a sour old miser, I fight very hard against Schadenfreude and its complement, Saki's "natural displeasure at the good fortune of a friend". Accordingly I am, believe me, happy for the Liverpool Accessible Sensory Environment Resource. Likewise I rejoice with Mencap and Sadler's Wells, with the Eritrean Refugee Advice Centre and the RNIB. I look forward with optimistic eagerness to the Pro Corda music school's staff lavatories, Leiston brass band's new instruments, and whatever the "Earth Centre" is going to turn out to be. And what could be nicer than to know that the chimney of the Alderburgh Cinema need no longer emit smoke through the sides as well as the top?

It has, perhaps, been a bit harder to maintain a happy smile when contemplating the Royal Opera House's plans for a Centre-Paro-style shopping arcade in its foyer; and even more of an effort to be thrilled about the Churchill papers. But by the time these are Good Causes, carefully chosen by panels of our betters. Aren't they?

All the same, I am getting rattled about the distribution of the Lottery proceeds. I have nightmares about some vast, out-of-control pot of Maundy money being scattered by the White Queen "Off with his head! No, give him 55 million!" in the scramble, charity is set against charity, cricket club against brass band, museum against museum. A new mood is appearing: no doubt some cashpenny sociologist is now studying "lottery dependency culture", referring not to be pallid creatures scratching outside newsagents, but to those who run charities, arts and heritage organisations.

The trouble is that, as any traveller in poor countries knows, nothing tears up a community faster than the arrival of a golden goose. Take an indigent village, add a rich Westerner thinking to do good by employing a couple of local girls and a lad: within a month, the village is riven by feuds between the mothers of those on the payroll and the mothers of those not chosen. Rumer Godden's best novel, *Kingfishers Catch Fire*, follows this process. Her dippy heroine tries to do good to a dirt-poor Kashmiri village, and causes only strife as families fight for influence. They hiss: "Look at the bandage she put on Mamdoo's baby!"... in village opinion it was worth more than the baby itself.

Or again, take the shameful stories from Romania during the peak of the amateur relief efforts: toys bought for orphans were sold on for profit, alterations arose over the deserts of gypsies. Wise travellers do not scatter benevolence according to ignorant caprice: they give their present, whether money or colouring pencils, to the local priest or schoolmaster. That way, it is shared fairly, or, at least, according to the local idea of fairness. It does not take much imagination to transfer that wisdom to the lottery grant system, and to see that we have not followed it. We are becoming a

nation of supplicants and wheedlers, from senior Establishment figures lobbying in private to baffled volunteers struggling with forms, uncertain whether they are heritage or millennium, sport or charity. We all queue up cap in hand, panhandling to a set of unselected trustees: to Lord Rothschild and Peter Cumber, to David Sieff, the Sports Council chairman and the millennium gang. They are good, conscientious people, making honourable impossible choices: under them, a growing Civil Service slips envelopes and sifts appeals according to hastily cobbled up rules. Frustration and confusion mount: the obsession with large building projects, for instance, has foisted many outfits which wanted a small grant, or the funding of one village salary, or something that the good trustees do not quite understand, such as a canal boat.

What is alarming about this supplicant society is that the queuers and wheedlers were until recently exemplars of robust independence. Certainly, they knew how to screw money out of commercial sponsors, and how to raise funds from the public. But there is a difference between that and going to a board, like Oliver Twist. It is unseemly. The attractive thing about British charity work is that it represents democracy in action. Individuals say: "We need a scanner for the hospital" or "The children's orchestra must survive" or

"Those people must not starve!" — so they give their money and know that they made it happen. In times of disillusion with central government (and it is, as Simon Jenkins so skillfully and so often points out, becoming more central every day), charity is a safety-valve. One of the reasons I venerate the RNLI is the sheer pleasure of knowing that off these shores every week people are saved from death not by a nanny state, but because thousands of people are moved by pure humanity to give time and money to the lifeboats.

This exhilarating aspect of charity is being eroded by the Lottery. The grants create expectation and disappointment, anger and envy. It is not just media mischief: charities themselves are strapping at one another, struggling to prove that, say, cancer research is more worthy than Eritrean benefit claimants, or mental handicap than sales training. On a local level, people say "Why should we do the best? They're getting £50,000 from the Lottery." Local rivalry is intense: undue influence is (probably wrongly) suspected: the bowls club resents the cricket pavilion, the hospice hates the mother-and-toddler centre, and the vintage car museum can barely contain its irritation with its former friends at the puppet theatre.

And all these decisions are being made by boards: boards appointed by a Government which then piously explains that it absolutely must "stand back" from their decision. Why? If my pet project has been binned, why may I not complain to Mrs Bottomley? We elected her. Why are unelected appointees sacred? Where's the democracy in that? Nobody really believed that the Lottery would be so significant. Now that we discover what a nation of desperate gamblers we are, it behoves us to consider more carefully what to do with the money. Whoever called it a "tax on hope" was not far off, and nobody

likes taxation without representation. So, how could we do it better? How do you give the lottery money back democratically, without disrupting the delicate nepotisms of effort and reward and community? The most logical and administratively cheap thing to do, from the point of view of a Martian visitor, would be to sling the money into the Exchequer, whence are duly elected Government could dispense it in the public interest as it does our taxes. Oh, all right — sorry I even mentioned it. A Martian couldn't be expected to understand how we feel about the Government.

Another option: give the lottery proceeds to local authorities, large and small. Tell them to give it to good local causes. After all, there was a time when it was the council which gave grants to brass bands, hospices, football teams, museums and so on, and councils are elected. Don't trust them? Well, another solution: split the arts and heritage money among all the museums, theatres groups and so forth which care to register. Divide proportionally, according to how many visitors or audience members they attracted last year (perhaps with a mechanism to disadvantage those with large endowments). On this reckoning, some will receive cheques for 54p, others for tens of thousands. But popularity will be the key: the Royal Opera House would have to earn its money by putting more effort into education and its wonderful (but very rare) community workshops of participation. Whereas my own beloved National Maritime Museum, which perennially swarms with happy schoolchildren, would do very nicely.

And the charities? Again divide it up. Ask only one question: How much did you raise by your own efforts last year? The lottery money could then, match that, pound for pound (or maybe 5p to the pound). The money would be handed over without any need for deliberation by a distant elite. Anybody raising £1,000 for spinal research would know that they were effectively raising proportionally more. Effort would be rewarded.

Any more suggestions? One letter to this paper yesterday suggested that we go the opposite way: instead of struggling for absolute fairness, why not have honestly random numbers? Make them all draw lots for it, the writer said. He and I are not so far apart. It is the middle way, the weasel way, which does the damage.

Kingsley's rightward journey

Woodrow Wyatt remembers Amis

on politics

Just 19 when he went to Oxford in the spring of 1941, Kingsley Amis joined the Communist Party. "Belonging... involved girls, not very nice looking ones though, most of them... but it also meant... trying to read Marx, Lenin... going to 'study groups'... speaking at meetings, on balance a poor return for having, in this most banal of ways, rebelled against my father."

Dislike of my own father's narrow outlook was also a factor propelling me into the Labour Party, where I was once somewhat on the left. It was almost normal then — I was four years older than Kingsley — for young political animals like us to act thus, what with the appeasement of Hitler and the harsh treatment of the pre-war unemployed.

Kingsley's time at Oxford was broken by war service in the Signals. In the mess, the bovine colonel amused himself and his fellow officers with remarks to Kingsley like "I expect a communist like you must be jolly glad to think of your old friend Uncle Joe Stalin taking over Poland and Czechoslovakia and all those other places we went to war for." He would reply: "All those places will be allowed to have proper democratic elections, sir," to be met with: "And you're still really a big enough fool to believe that, are you, Oxford degree and the rest of it?" Kingsley conceded that he was.

Lucky Jim's, hilarious "on-slaughts on authority" were a political expression. Kingsley was fairly soon cured of communism, put off by its dishonesty and its infiltration of the Labour Party and the unions, duping simpletons into becoming its tools. But he continued to vote Labour, satisfied that Atlee's Government had made a decisive and permanent shift to fairness. He was still a supporter when Gaitskill was Labour's leader, though his admiration for Tony Crosland was somewhat diminished at a party Tony gave at his Kensington flat. Kingsley came, with some jazz gramophone records. After a while, Tony started taking them off, putting another one on arbitrarily, taking it off a quarter of the way through and reaching for another. Kingsley protested vehemently: "Leave them alone. They're my records." "I don't give a f—," it's my gramophone. I'm putting them on, not you." The brilliant economist and the distinguished writer, both drunk, fought like children over their toys, punching and rolling on the floor.

It was the advent of Harold Wilson, allowing Labour to lurch ever leftwards, which set off alarms for Kingsley. He spoke to a Conservative Political Centre summer school in Oxford in July 1963. He later wrote: "In July 1964, I voted Labour for the last time... and I voted Conservative for the first time in the 1967 GLC elections." So why had I crossed the floor? ... A question worth answering, considering how many writers and such since Wordsworth have made a similar rightward journey. The reason why prominent Leftists... go on opposing the system long after having got on pretty well by most standards is perhaps threefold. First of all, political habit dies hard — and it has in my case, though I *had* died. Secondly, success is always relative: the controversial poet gets bad reviews from the pundits, the popular actress (especially her) finds... an even more appreciative audience at political rallies. Thirdly, an increasing bitterness develops as the system, having been repeatedly shouted at to pull itself together, clings on much as before.

Kingsley was repelled by "Hamstead Authoritarianism", and the levelling of the best in education to a vast plateau of mediocrity. "More is worse" was his slogan. In 1979 he saw a kindred spirit in Margaret Thatcher. He was excited by her assaults on the stuffy, and her reawakening of England to a sense of purpose in the future, which had been lost in the dreary days of Eden, Macmillan, Wilson and Callaghan.

At a lunch at my house in May, Kingsley was cheerful. He knew a lot about wine and drink, perhaps too much: "I was flattered that in his book *On Drink* he recommended 'Woodrow Wyatt's Instant Whiskey Collins' — as much bourbon whiskey as you fancy, 1/2 standard split-size bitter, lemon drink. I maraschino cherry, ice cubes. This day he drank his usual whisky and water, making me fear he would destroy his palate's ability to taste the rather good and old wines I had produced.

He lamented the departure of Margaret Thatcher, but unlike Paul Johnson, Hugh Trevor-Roper (Lord Dacre) and Peregrine Worsthorne, also present, he staunchly supported me in backing John Major to win the next election. He thought Major was still 4-6 to win again. "At the moment people are quite ready to say they'll vote against the Government, but when it comes to it, they'll think never mind, we've said before this is serious, so come on, Doris, well vote as we always have."

Kingsley was convinced that a Blair victory would return Britain to the defunct and self-denigrating of the pre-Thatcher years. He was a passionate political animal to the last.

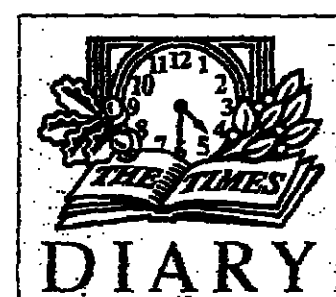
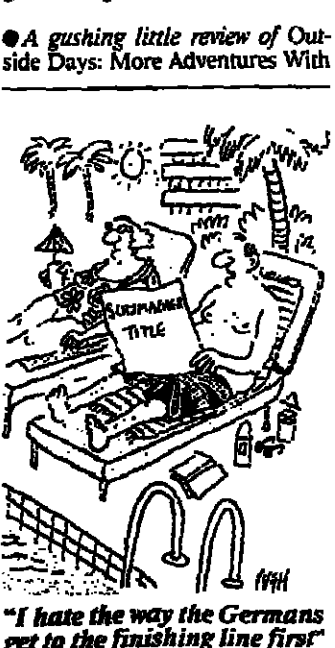
Royal rubbish

THE Prince of Wales is involved in a messy row over household waste. The trouble centres on his showpiece village, Poundbury in Dorset, and his insistence that the dustmen collect rubbish from the back of houses, not the front.

The village is the Prince's vision of a perfect community, an environmentally friendly rural idyll just outside Dorchester. But it has been criticised for the high cost of properties, which were slow to sell, and a lack of facilities, especially for young people.

Its vernacular-style village homes were designed to ensure that unsightly rubbish-bags would not be left on the pavement, and collections could be made at the rear of the houses. But it transpires that the service areas for bin lorries are too small.

● A gushing little review of *Outside Days: More Adventures With*



Rod and Gun appeared in London's Evening Standard yesterday. The author's "even-handed consideration is as welcome as the first run of fish in the spring," bubbled the reviewer. The book is written with all the enthusiasm and tenderness that passion will inspire. It also happens to be written by Max Hastings, who soon arrives at the Standard as its Editor.

● Thursday's retirement party for Judge Stephen Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, should go like a bomb. Both the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, and Derek Lewis, the man he sacked as Director-General of the Prison Service, have accepted. Who will escape first?

watched his father shoot a bird high on a hill in Perthshire during the war. "I watched it fall down the line, for at least 150 yards," he recalls. "My cousin Elizabeth Rose, who became chief of Clan Rose, was walking at the bottom of the line, carrying fishing tackle for use later on. She saw the bird falling and simply stretched out the landing net and caught the dead grouse in the net. My advice to Her Majesty is therefore always to carry a net while out shooting and never to look down."

● BBC's radio panel of horticultural experts. Loudest among the braying pack is likely to be Glenda Jackson, MP for Hampstead and Highgate. Like the Prince of Wales, she likes nothing better than pulling on her wellies and grubbing about her borders, talking to the plants. "She likes to have a good shout at them," says her secretary. "She shouts, 'Grow you little buggers, grow.'"

● The Prospect looks of the first set of twins with seats in Parliament. Maria Eagle, twin sister of Wallace's MP Angela Eagle, has been selected for Liverpool Garston (Labour majority 12,000).



The Eagle twins: are they by any chance related?

Angela won her Merseyside seat in 1992, when Maria, a solicitor, was an unsuccessful candidate in Crosby. But with the Tories' lacklustre performance in the polls and her new seat being a Labour stronghold, her chances of becoming an MP are stronger than ever. The twins have shared interests from an early age: both were chess prodigies, both played tennis, and both went to Oxford University. "We have been interested in politics since we were four," says Maria, the younger twin by 15 minutes. "When my hair's straight we look even more alike. We will have to dress differently if I get in — or wear badges."

P-H-S



THE CENTRE CAN HOLD

But the emasculation of local democracy is dangerous

If John Major decides to force all schools to become self-governing, he might as well change their appellation too. Far from being "opted-out", they would better be called "forced-out". Such a move would run quite counter to traditional Tory ideas of parental choice, of persuasion rather than coercion. Worst of all it would strip local government of almost all the powers that remain to it.

Our columnist Simon Jenkins would doubtless enjoy the irony that the news of these proposals should break the day before his new book was published, *Accountable to None: The Tory Nationalization of Britain* is a trenchant account of the steady agglomeration of power towards the centre that has taken place in the past 16 years. Whether on education, the health service, the law, local government finance, the railways or even the lottery, Mr Jenkins finds hardly any area of British public life that has not suffered from this centralist tendency.

Sometimes the forces at work are in opposite directions at once. Self-governing schools give more influence to parents; yet they are funded directly by Whitehall. Council house sales have liberated their owners from local authority landlords; yet the clause that allowed central government to force the councils to sell was described by Lord Denning as "a most coercive power... that enables central government to interfere with a high hand over local authorities". What emerges most clearly from this book is a determination to exclude local councillors from the political process. Unaccountable quangos have taken the place of elected bodies, and have been packed with businessmen: "a code for Tory support" that became a standing joke in Whitehall, according to Mr Jenkins.

It is easy to see why politicians, when they move from opposition to government, become less keen on decentralisation. However much they might call for subsidiarity

from Brussels, they are reluctant to concede it at home. Margaret Thatcher felt increasingly frustrated by Labour local authorities. The seven metropolitan counties she simply abolished. According to Norman Tebbit, the Greater London Council had to go because it was "left-wing, high-spending and at odds with the Government's view of the world".

Supporters of the Government's actions would argue, with some justification, that each of its centralising moves allowed much-needed reforms to take place which would otherwise have been obstructed. Local government in Britain, particularly in the inner cities, was far less effective and more damagingly ideological in the 1980s than on the Continent or in America. But the question remains whether stripping it of its powers was an appropriate response.

Local government could have been revitalised had the Government wanted it to be so. Elected mayors, yearly elections and referendums on the level of local taxation could all have improved the performance and accountability of councils. Instead, no fewer than 144 Acts of Parliament were passed to change the structure and reduce the powers of local government. Most of that power has been seized by the centre.

Such intolerance of political pluralism is an ugly feature of this administration. And the structures that have been put in place could prove positively dangerous under a different one. Margaret Thatcher thought that, by giving herself more power, she could curb the socialist aspirations of local politicians. But she put in place the means by which a socialist central government could abuse those powers itself. This book should be required reading not just for students of the British political scene, but for its players too. Labour politicians in particular should plan now to restore powers to local government before the temptations of office become too great.

TUG OF LAW

Britain takes stock of the European Court of Justice

When the inter-governmental conference for the reform of the European Union cranks into motion next year, the European Court of Justice should receive attention from governments which believe that it is in need of reform. They include Britain, whose concerns with the flaws of the court will be expressed over the next two days by David Davis, the Minister for European Affairs.

Mr Davis's discussion paper, to be presented in Brussels at a meeting of the EU's Reflection Group, will focus on two areas of compelling concern. These are, first, the generally retroactive effect of its rulings and, secondly, the sweeping principle from the 1991 *Francovich* case — in which the court established that member states were liable in damages to citizens who suffered because of a failure to implement EU directives. Read together, these concerns will lead to disquieting results: a mushrooming of claims for compensation against governments, in Britain as much as in other EU countries, is sure to result if action is not taken to limit the potential retroactive mischief of *Francovich*.

Unlike the EU's administrative and legislative measures, which are always prospective, the court's judgments are retrospective. The argument for this distinction — that the court is merely stating the law as it always was, not making new law — is undermined by the enormous potential liability which governments now face as a result of *Francovich*. There, Italy failed entirely to implement a directive: damages were awarded to a citizen whose rights were affected by this omission. But what happens when a state does adopt legislation to implement a directive, only to find in a later

ruling by the court that its domestic law had not given full effect to the terms of that directive?

In the learned view of Sir Patrick Neill, QC, that case "introduced a novel and far-reaching principle", which nowhere has support in the texts of the various EU treaties. And what made the court's activism still harder to swallow was its refusal to place a time-limit in the past on this new, judge-made cause of action for damages.

There have been other examples of judgments which confirm Sir Patrick's view that the court has a mission — that of strengthening the EU's federal tendencies. "A court with a mission is not an orthodox court. It is potentially a dangerous court, the danger being that inherent in uncontrollable judicial power." In the 1990 *Marleasing* case, it ruled startlingly that earlier national legislation should be interpreted in the light of later unimplemented directives. No appeal, at present, lies against a ruling of this sort, and the IGC would do well to address that glaring loophole.

A proposal, which has been espoused by John Redwood among others, is that the Council of Ministers should be given the right to revise, dilute or reverse a ruling by the court. This "putative check on the activism of the court attracts increasing support in Britain. Inevitable questions will be raised: would this not subvert the rule of law? Yet the court would do well to remain faithful to the rule of law, too. It strays too often from the texts of those treaties which have empowered it, and which it has the task to interpret and apply. If a new balance now needs to be struck, it is because the old one was upset by the judges themselves.

LITTLE WINNERS

Recognition and help for Britain's sturdy local volunteers

Who would be a Lottery Fairy? When £30 million went to Sadler's Wells last week, the poor were said to be paying for "middle-class pleasures". Yesterday it was the turn of the National Lottery Charities Board to take bricksbats of a different kind. The Left grumbles that in singling out disadvantaged people, the lottery is doing the welfare state's job — hardly plausible, when £40 million is set against a health and education budget of £75 billion. The tabloids growl that decent people will be "angry" that money is going to alcoholics, drug addicts and single mums. The Board is roasted by The Mail on Sunday for neglecting "famous" charities in favour of "organisations that we have never heard of".

Admittedly, there are teething troubles. Anything novel needs money to set up shop, but £6 million seems a lot to have spent before making the first grants. Scotland scooped nearly 44 per cent of yesterday's £40 million jackpot for the good reason that its regional award-granting body proved vastly more efficient at identifying recipients than the nine English ones. But what has made selection difficult is also what makes yesterday's awards worth a wait.

No fewer than 15,000 applications have come in, three times as many as those to the other four lottery quangos put together. The Charities Board deliberately set out both to cast its net wide, and to concentrate on unglamorous, unspectacular small charities. Such a strategy required time it would properly have been subject to severe censure

had it failed to vet applications thoroughly. That is why it was right, too, to take the selection of "little winners" closer to the grass roots. Above all, although such well-known charities as Mencap, Age Concern and Cancer Research do figure among the 627 recipients, the board was right to reach out to the myriad of voluntary efforts that cannot hope to make the big fundraising league.

In such a long list, there will be something to raise all types of eyebrow: "multicultural and equal opportunities" toys, costumes and instruments might seem to some people to smack of disease rather than cure. Mock not the Phoenix Toy Library may be much valued by its own community. The appeal of Pennywell's project to give its young people "something to be part of" seems irresistible; but what on earth does it mean?

Stand back from the trees, and what appears is something everybody should praise: an emphasis on enhancing self-reliance, whether it be the ability of the old, infirm or disabled to live more independent lives or help for young glue-sniffers to overcome addiction or for socially isolated Chinese women in Gloucestershire to play a fuller part in their community. The £162 million to be spent this year comes to a mere 1 per cent of the income of the voluntary sector in this country. Adam Smith viewed lotteries as "a tax on all the fools in Creation". But without a jackpot to play for, we spend £16.2 billion on helping our neighbour. We may be fools, but we value our "little platoons" more than we think.

Home care denied to the disabled

From Mr Alfred Morris, MP for Manchester Wythenshawe (Labour and Co-Operative)

Sir, A parliamentary debate on October 19 to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of royal assent to my Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill emphasised again the concern on both sides of the Commons that disabled people must not be denied services to which they are entitled by law under Section 2 of the Act.

Yet some local authorities are failing to meet their statutory obligations. In the case of Gloucestershire County Council, for example, the High Court ruled that, because it had not reassessed service-users individually, the council had unlawfully withdrawn home-care services provided for under Section 2 (report, June 17).

That judgment was expected to lead the council to restore the withdrawn services and to carry out a reassessment before determining whether they were still needed. Instead, the council wrote to 1,240 service-users stating that they would have to request a reassessment before services would be restored. It appears that only 230 people had requested a reassessment.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) is deserving of wide support for now challenging what, under the legal advice given to me when I was Minister for the Disabled (1974-79), seems plainly unlawful.

My advice was that to withdraw a service provided under the Act, without any diminution of need, is plainly incompatible with the statutory duties the Act imposes. But that is what has happened to more than 1,000 disabled people in the case of the council which RADAR is challenging.

The disability organisations fully understand — as I do — the difficulties of councils now complaining that community care is seriously underfunded by the Government; but we are not prepared to see disabled people lose hard-won rights so essential to independent living.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED MORRIS,
House of Commons,
October 23.

Shadow appointment

From Mr Tom Clarke, MP for Monklands West (Labour)

Sir, Your readers may be sorry to learn that, far from my recent meeting with Tony Blair being "acrimonious", as you report on October 20, not a word of acrimony was exchanged between us over the appointments to the Shadow Cabinet.

I left my discussion with Tony feeling thrilled that I was back in the Shadow Cabinet having won three out of four elections; was continuing as the spokesperson on Disability when Labour is forcing concession after concession from a mean-minded Government; and delighted that my colleagues from the Parliamentary Labour Party and Tony Blair had given me the privilege of continuing my role at Shadow Cabinet level.

Yours etc,
TOM CLARKE,
House of Commons,
October 20.

Staying power

From Mr Alan Gershon

Sir, Peter Riddell poses the "core question" ("Complicity won't do", October 16) as being "whether it would be unhealthy for British democracy for one party to be in power for nearly a quarter of a century". This seems a silly question. It's like asking whether it would be unhealthy for a man to be married to the same woman for nearly a quarter of a century.

It all depends on whether they are, on the whole, happy and thriving and have the right to make a change if they want to.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GERSHON,
Rozetta, 23 Raleigh Close, NW4,
October 16.

Street signs

From Mr Graham Lloyd

Sir, Mr Cox suggests (letter, October 16) that a good project for the millennium would be to improve signage in this country by installing street-name signs at 200-yard intervals and by insisting that every house displays a number on the gatepost.

While agreeing in principle with the suggestion, I feel that, in this technological age, there are more environmentally friendly ways of achieving the same aim.

With the current rapid progress in computer, telecommunications and satellite-positioning systems it cannot be long before, if the spirit were there, there could be available cheap, portable devices that would not only give a visual display of where one is at any time, but could also provide instant information on all house numbers and street names.

Isn't that a project more in line with the spirit of the millennium?

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LLOYD,
32 Gravett Close,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
October 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prospects for divorce law reforms

From the Chairman of the Family Law Committee of the Law Society

Sir, There are many legitimate objections to the Lord Chancellor's proposed divorce law reforms, but, as your leader (October 19; see also letter, October 20) rightly points out, the argument that they will encourage more divorce is not one of them. Ending allegations of fault in divorce proceedings is a sensible and responsible improvement to current procedures.

However, the Law Society must dispute that "the intervention of lawyers... is bound to inflame the acrimony" in divorce. Solicitors, whilst advising clients on their rights, adopt a conciliatory approach to divorce. The vast majority of divorces are resolved through negotiation, with only 10 per cent going to court.

Our concerns about the Lord Chancellor's proposals are that they introduce unnecessary bureaucracy into the process — especially for poorer clients — and that compulsory attendance at public divorce information sessions will infringe the privacy of all divorcing couples.

The Law Society supports mediation but does not believe that it is a universal solution. We favour all initiatives aimed at resolving the disputes which inevitably arise on divorce, but this must not be at the price of failing to offer protection to those who need it.

Yours,
HILARY SIDDLE,
Chairman,
Family Law Committee,
The Law Society,
50 Chancery Lane, WC2,
October 20.

From Lady Moorea Black, JP

Sir, You are quite correct in stating that opposition to reform of the divorce law is misguided. In particular there is much misunderstanding of the part that mediation has to play.

From 1986-91 I chaired a magistrates' domestic court where mediation played a major role between couples in dispute. In almost 90 per cent of cases amicable arrangements relating to the children were achieved. Agreement is also reached by National Family Mediation — one of the organisations which will mediate under the divorce reform — in 70-80 per cent of the 8,000 cases in which they currently mediate each year.

Yours faithfully,
MOOREA BLACK,
17 Lansdowne Walk, W1,
October 19.

From the Bishop of Liverpool

Sir, Your leader helpfully corrects some of the ill-informed criticisms of the Lord Chancellor's proposals. In February 1994 the General Synod of the Church of England agreed that the Government was right to change a manifestly unsatisfactory law.

Sentencing policy

From Mr Terence Neville, JP

Sir, I write to record my support for some of Michael Howard's sentencing initiatives (letters, October 19) and to take issue, with respect, with the reported views of the Lord Chief Justice (details, October 13).

Whilst I entirely agree with Lord Taylor of Gossforth when he says that the likelihood of detection is a deterrent, that can only be part of the equation. The likelihood of detection for young criminals subsequently sent on safari would not, in my view, have the same deterrent effect as certainty of being punished and sent to appropriate forms of detention where a rigorous discipline is enforced.

Likewise, the likelihood of detection with the prospect of a prison sentence, in practical terms, of only half the sentence is equally not a deterrent and in the Home Secretary's words "sends the wrong signals to criminals".

There is a certain paradox in what the Lord Chief Justice says. Whilst he argues for discretion to remain with the judiciary (with which I whole-

We share the Government's view that any reform should have the effect of strengthening marriage and — to the extent that is possible — minimising the bitterness which accompanies any divorce. This was the intention of the 1966 Church of England report, *Putting Asunder*. By implementing only some of its proposals, the 1969 Act (and still more the "special procedure" changes in the 1970s) fatally undermined its central purpose.

This serves as a warning against ill-judged reform in this area. The Government has consulted very widely and we believe the Lord Chancellor is moving in the right general direction. The bishops have serious reservations on a limited number of points. We shall express them vigorously when the legislation is introduced.

Provided we get satisfactory assurances on those points, I believe the majority of bishops will support the Government.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LIVERPOOL (Chairman),
Board for Social Responsibility,
The General Synod of the
Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1,
October 20.

From Judge David Price

Sir, May I, as one who has sat in a divorce court since 1968, comment on your excellent leader.

The chances of possible reconciliation in the 70 per cent of cases where unreasonable behaviour is relied on are greatly reduced by the respondent having to read the details of his alleged behaviour (often, though not always, greatly exaggerated) in the petition.

Between 1970 and 1974 I tried all cases in which "conduct" was alleged to be relevant to the division of assets and payment of maintenance at Croydon County Court. In almost every case the truth was "six of one and half a dozen of the other".

Accusations do not "fly across the court room". Proof of the alleged grounds for divorce in the petition is given simply by the petitioner lodging a formal affidavit stating the allegations are true. The respondent does not see the affidavit at all. Indeed, unless the case is quite exceptional or the respondent is rich, legal assistance to defend the divorce will not have been available. The vast majority of cases thus go undefended and allegations are untested.

Filing a petition does not necessarily end a marriage. In 4-7 per cent of cases the petitioner does not proceed. My hope is that with more accessible marriage counselling this proportion can be increased.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PRICE
(Deputy District Judge),
35 Leicester Avenue, SW14,
October 20.

heavily agree), the reality is that under the present system that discretion is interfered with by the application of an automatic statutory release date.

What the Home Secretary proposes as regards the length of sentence would give the courts precisely what they have been asking for — i.e. a discretion to determine the sentence that the offender actually serves.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE NEVILLE,
Elmswood,
32 Elmscott Gardens, N21,
October 19.

From Mr Edward Watson

Sir, Upon hearing Michael Howard's Blackpool speech, I reached for Mozley and Whiteley's law dictionary. Under "Judge", it said: "One invested with authority to... award the proper punishment to offenders."

There was no entry under "Home Secretary".

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD WATSON,
61 Tottenham Road,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Blessings from on high

From the Reverend John R. M. Cook

Sir, Colin Hutt's mention of the "Spinner's Prayer" (letter, October 19) reminds me of the line contained in the hymn *Complications of Mrs C. F. Alexander* (1818-1893): "E-ven me! E-ven me! Let some droppings fall on me!"

The "Ornithologist's Prayer?"

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. M. COOK,
(Director of Training),
All Souls Church,
Langham Place, W1.

J'accuse!

From Professor Emeritus Douglas Johnson

Sir, I was surprised to read in your issue of October 19, in the "Anniversaries" section, that Captain Alfred Dreyfus had been born in Mulhausen, Alsace, in 1859. Surely this should have been, in that year, Mulhouse? On reflection he should not have appeared in that issue at all, since he was born on October 9, 1859.

Yours truly,
DOUGLAS JOHNSON (Author,
France and the Dreyfus Affair, 1963),
29 Russell Crescent, NW3,
October 20.

Charities and lottery

From the Reverend Peter Sear

Sir, Charities will be heartened by the Government's announcement that it is setting up an inquiry into the effect of the National Lottery upon their income (report, October 21). However, I hope that the terms of reference of the inquiry will focus on the effect of the National Lottery upon donations to charities (rather than upon their income).

It is those charities which rely upon public donations that will have been hardest hit by the impact of the National Lottery. Many other charities receive their income not from donations but from the interest on their endowment capital. The National Lottery would have no impact upon them.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SEAR,
The Rectory,
17 Church Gate,
Thatcham, Berkshire,
October 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Risks and benefits of price cutting

From Professor Sir Graham Hills, FRSE

Sir, Amidst the euphoria attending the freeing of the price of some common medicines (report, October 17) and books (report, September 27), there is a need for a word of warning.

I was brought up to believe that there were two legitimate prices for any commodity, a fair price and a market price, and that in healthy economies these two prices would be the same. The fair price is defined as that reflecting the cost of an article efficiently made and efficiently distributed, together with a margin of profit which would reward the shareholders for their risk and allow for further investment. The cost of manufacture and distribution would be based on fair wages for those employed, and so on.

The market price represents the value put on the article by the purchaser in a market free from artificial constraints. In a responsive mode it can only differ significantly from the fair price as the result of exceptional circumstances of market failure, product obsolescence or product innovation.

Where market operators seek deliberately to distort the market by undercutting prices they fool the public into believing that their new, lower prices are a general blessing without hidden costs of inconvenience, indiscriminate denigration, social upheaval and, in the end, restricted choice.

This may be harmless at the level of the street trader but on the national scale unrestrained competition is like any other unrestrained force, a positive feedback loop with unpredictable and possibly disastrous outcomes. Surely we are old enough and wise enough to wish not to risk the future in this uncivilised way.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Sunnyside of Threepwood,
Laigh Threepwood,
Beith, Ayrshire,
October 17.

From Dr Trevor I. Williams

Sir, The move by Asda to cut the price of its pharmaceutical products is excellent news. Many drugs are intrinsically expensive — sometimes exceedingly so — because the active ingredient is difficult and costly to manufacture, enormous research investment has to be written off, and for other good reasons.

But for many of the across-the-counter medications, for relief of common ailments, the cost of the ingredients per individual pack is almost negligible and the formulation involves only well-ried procedures. Yet they are sold in huge quantities at prices that can only be described as exorbitant.

This section of the pharmaceutical industry has held the public to ransom for far too long.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR I. WILLIAMS,
20 Blenheim Drive, Oxford,
October 17.

GPs' home visits

From Dr J. H. K. Fitton

Sir, Bupa is to offer unlimited telephone advice from a GP at any time for £72 pa, plus a charge of £30 per visit (report, October 16). I trust they will include unhealthy people with recurrent or chronic illness.

I and my five partners do around 6,000 home visits a year in our practice of over 13,000 patients. With such an income we could afford to do the bulk of our work — i.e. dealing personally with patients' problems in the surgery — free of charge.

No wonder GP recruitment is in crisis when we have to run large well-staffed computerised practices open for 50 hours a week, plus a 24-hour on-call service, for around £50 per patient pa.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FITTON,
26 Cranford Road,
Barton Seagrave, Northamptonshire.

Cliches for our times

From Mr Oliver Chastney

Sir, Mr Alan Jenkins's quest for new images to qualify for cliché status (letter, October 17) may prove to be as elusive as the needle in a haystack he mentions. "Like looking for a needle or a haystack" might do.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CHASTNEY,
53 Keswick Road,
Kingsfold, Norwich, Norfolk,
October 18.

From Mrs Karen W. Hillier

Sir, As difficult to find as a career in a job centre?

Yours,
KAREN W. HILLIER,
2 Willoughby Close,
Ernesford Grange,
Coventry, West Midlands.

From Ms Sally Roberts

Sir, Once I have finished surfing the net and have come to a complete stop after my high-speed journey along the information superhighway, I shall let you know.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY ROBERTS,
62 Black Lion Lane, W6,
October 17.

Million-pound strike-force paying way in the Interactive Team Football game

Ferdinand and Yeboah tip of impressive spear

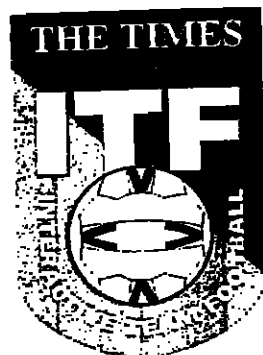
Kevin Kickers, the side selected by Mr K James, of Abbeymead, Gloucestershire, continues to set a strong pace at the head of the Interactive Team Football (ITF) table. Having already secured the £500 prize for the leading manager in September, Mr James is nine points clear of Jessica Darlings 4, managed by Mr A. Nadison.

Mr Nadison's side is spearheaded by a striking partnership that would be the envy of any Premiership club. Les Ferdinand, of Newcastle United, and Tony Yeboah, of Leeds United, were both expensive purchases, at a combined price of £15.5 million, but have more than paid their way in netting their manager 60 points. While Yeboah may have missed out on Saturday, Ferdinand easily compensated by scoring a hat-trick against Wimbledon.

Their purchase accounted for nearly half of Mr Nadison's budget and meant he was forced to shop around to complete his side, which in full comprises: David James (Liverpool), Andy Myers (Chelsea), Chris Morris (Middlesbrough), Ugo Ehiogu (Aston Villa), Steve Vickers (Middlesbrough), David Batty (Blackburn Rovers), Nicky Butt (Manchester United), Jamie Redknapp (Liverpool), Lee Clark (Newcastle United), Les Ferdinand (Newcastle United) and Tony Yeboah (Leeds United). This astute line-up is managed by Alex Ferguson (Manchester United).

While Mr Nadison lives in London, an eye on the North East has yielded him a rich dividend, four of his players coming from Newcastle and the resurgent Middlesbrough. The selection of Morris and Vickers, two of Middlesbrough's defenders, have brought a combined 46 points. A solid defence has always been the mainstay of any team and Middlesbrough have conceded only four goals in the Premiership so far this season.

The success of the two Middlesbrough players shows that in ITF points scoring, defence can sometimes be the



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



best form of attack. As well as Morris and Vickers, Ehiogu (15 points) and Myers (12 points) have given Jessica Darlings 4 an excellent base on which to build. And it is in purchasing defenders that the real bargains are to be found. His quartet cost Mr Nadison only £4.5 million.

In goal, James has proved useful, if not spectacular, and has added 11 points to the team's overall total. His midfield, too, is another strong area. Batty, Butt, Redknapp and Clark average more than ten points. Here Mr Nadison selected the traditional blend of attacking players, like Redknapp and Clark, and proven ball-winners like the combative Batty and Butt, one of the emerging stars of Manchester United.

If you think your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player

with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

There are several rules to follow when making a transfer. You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also watching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own, and David Seaman, of Arsenal, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £10 million on Alan Shearer — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives? Mr Nadison obviously seems to think so.

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose your points. With Kevin Kickers still setting the pace, is it time for you to act?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016 and general inquiries about the game to 01582 457 444.



Ferdinand has established himself as the leading goalscorer in the Premiership this season and a valuable member of any ITF team

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal	2pts
Saves goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Full back/central defender	3pts	Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Saves goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	1pt	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts		
Saves goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match

† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Calls will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and you can play five-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday; from 8pm on Saturday to 11pm on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are no live matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

You may make up to (but not more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your said transfer would result in any over-spending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out:

Player in:

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN

There are no transfers into the ITF game this week.

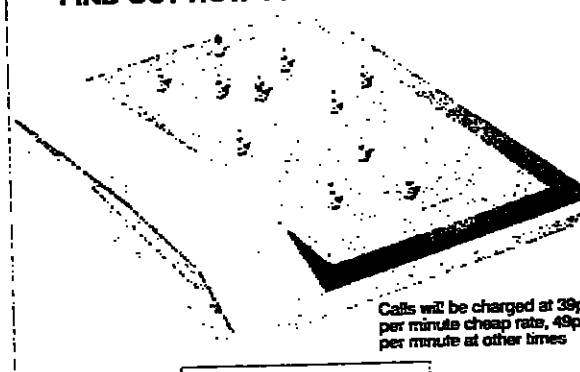
OUT

There are no transfers out of the ITF game this week.

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Kevin Kickers	(K James)	219
2	Jessica Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadison)	210
3	Barnwell United	(P Barnham)	208
4	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	206
5	The Subjugglers	(M Ayres)	204
6	Nookies Bears	(S Crooks)	203
7	Madrid Knights	(R Jenkinson)	202
8	Loxton's Longshots	(C Loxton)	202
9	Al's Alcorans	(A Hancock)	201
10	Gohills Gods 65	(Mr B Gohill)	199
11	Mean Machine	(Ramsay Patel)	199
12	No Defence Ok	(J Portwood)	199
13	Roadside Rangers	(Mr D Green)	199
14	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	198
15	Twilight United	(P C Dabworth)	197
16	Long Live The Queen	(L Wilson)	197
17	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	196
18	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	196
19	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	196
20	Physic TV	(T Vardy)	196
21	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	196
22	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	195
23	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	194
24	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	194
25	Tyres Blue Roses	(Mr S Tyle)	194
26	Bassets Bouncers	(J Hurd)	194
27	Bellfast Rangers	(Mr D Crowe)	194
28	Inetta	(B Daly)	193
29	M J Blues	(P Hardien)	193
30	Allstars	(Mr W Davisworth)	193
31	Transporter	(A Jenkinson)	193
32	Wolves Of Fenrie	(S Adamson)	193
33	Becky Babes	(D Ready)	192
34	James Boys Six	(M Jones)	192
35	Henry Hilda	(Mr T Thompson)	192
36	Walling Warriors	(P Shanks)	192
37	Walthey Wanderers	(S Whalley)	192
38	Newcastle Browns 2	(B MacLennan)	192
39	Power House	(R Matthews)	191
40	Omne	(S Murray)	191
41	Jessmond 1860	(Mr P Johnson)	191
42	Barnet FC	(H Davies)	191
43	Brown Montego	(R Patterson)	191
44	Kiln Ltd	(J Smith)	191
45	Glow In The Dark	(P Jones)	191
46	Oh There It Is!	(Miss C Elia)	191
47	The Premier Raiders 1	(Waters Wanderers)	191
48	Waters Wanderers	(Waters Wanderers)	191
49	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)	191
50	Edprops United	(P Harris)	191
51	They're Here	(R Edmondson)	191
52	Not Got A Chance	(Mr P Johnson)	191
53	Beardsleys Hair	(M Clark)	191
54	Weldon Wanderers FC	(Mr P Johnson)	191
55	Partners	(S Lee)	191
56	Gary Pearce	(E Donald)	191
57	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	191
58	Nanou	(G Bahdjefian)	191
59	The Young Guns	(S Shepherd)	191
60	Mighty Men 1	(N Giddings)	191
61	Beats Brubers	(C Marshall)	191
62	Gary's Heroes	(Mr B Harwood)	191
63	Cara's Hotshots	(C Carmese)	191
64	Scud 4	(P Hyndes)	191
65	G Force	(W Gayle)	191
66	Mac United	(T Mockuskey)	191

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF hotline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon each day.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
67	Dirty Boogers	(G Fallowfield)	186
68	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	186
69	Bora In Tashkent	(Mr D McMahon)	186
70	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	186
71	Dicks Dudes	(R Mison)	186
72	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	186
73	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	186
74	Phyrox And Smith	(M Moore)	186
75	Severn Legal	(G Thompson)	186
76	Redcar	(A James)	186
77	A Team	(Dr T Adetunji)	186
78	Tunde United	(Mrs G Jenkinson)	186
79	Dicks Delight	(Mr G Wesson)	186
80	Dreamer Fifth	(J Portwood)	186
81	Triple Peppers	(R Dick)	186
82	Robbie's Rovers	(S Cowan)	186
83	Slitton Rovers	(D Williams)	186
84	Slater Red Dragon	(S Ghanthwaile)	186
85	B N S Voice	(A Papadopoulos)	186
86	Papadopoulos City	(Mr P Johnson)	186
87	Oh Nicky Evans	(A Forman)	186
88	Forman's Finest	(H Shasher)	186
89	Shraw Voles	(F Colwell)	186
90	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Mahmood)	186
91	Gujar Khan United	(E Ronald)	186
92	Flintgen Flyers	(M Stayman)	186
93	M S Allstars	(J Taylor)	186
94	Taylor Cockrels	(Mr B O'Sullivan)	186
95	Nell's Nobblers	(J Haugh)	186
96	Wallace Wanderers	(J Cook)	186
97	Good Work Fettes	(Mr I Patrick)	186
98	Morse The Pod	(C Lang)	186
99	Warbreck Mistis	(A Horne)	186
100	Andy's Athletics	(Mr A Tynman)	186
101	Alpside	(L A McCole)	186
102	PSV Betamix	(K Doughty)	186
103	Sporting Sliders	(Mr S Hughes)	186
104	The Cake Eaters	(Mr A Skora)	186
105	Inebriewer	(Mr P Johnson)	186
106	Wheres Botham	(M Greenall)	186
107	Terry's Tigers	(S Pottage)	186
108	Disaster Area		186

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
109	Pig In A Poke	(Mr J Waters)	182
110	Here We Go	(Mr S Smith)	182
111	Milfers Reserves	(Mr J Davies)	182
112	Millers Formbook	(Mr G Crutchley)	182
113	FC Woodies	(A Williams)	182
114	The U K Beavers	(J Elkins)	182
115	Highbury Ltd	(E Pryce)	182
116	Fudge's Foulars	(J Abu Hejjah)	182
117	Norfolk N Good	(A Graven)	182
118	Ammerch	(A Mathewson)	182
119	Richies Rovers	(A Babarud)	182
120	Pointe Panthers	(L Brown)	182
121	The Conjurors	(K Hickbottom)	182
122	Q P R Auctioneers A	(Mr D Farmer)	182
123	Guilft Ltd	(S Kemphor)	182
124	Chack Association	(A Culpin)	182
125	Boling Bolog Bagg	(A Babarud)	182
126	The Evil Eyes	(D Horne)	182
127	Fantasy Fops?	(D Collier)	182
128	Razor's Raiders	(J Nield)	182
129	It's All Over	(R Knowles)	182
130	Gohills Gods 82	(D Webborne)	182
131	No Hoppers	(Mr S Gohill)	182
132	AC Dundee	(D Collier)	182
133	Tiggers Two	(J Nield)	182
134	Mign	(R Knowles)	182
135	Maas Marvels	(D Webborne)	182
136	Netbusters	(C B Mitchell)	182
137	Jaynes Jays	(K Hughes)	182
138	Harveys Heroes	(T Townsend)	182
139	Domans Doughnuts	(D Burt)	182
140	Malcolm Hair XI	(M Richards)	182
141	Crofton Rangers	(C Wilcox)	182
142	The Butler	(G Moss)	182
143	Fair Fair Flapjacks	(S Unwin)	182
144	A D B Sign Shaver	(C Woodward)	182
145	S P M G Allstar XI	(Mr P Johnson)	182
146	Synthetic Dozen	(D Shuter)	182
147	Mickeys Pathetic	(S Potts)	182
148	Real Respitechep	(Mr J Donatdon)	182
149	Willy's Wanderers	(Mrs J Granger)	182
150	Woodford Rangers	(A Kinney)	182
151	Sunlight	(J Merritt)	182
152	Ashted Borough	(J Hawes)	182
153	Alan Sugars Huge Ego	(S Scollie)	182
154	Rovers FC	(R Alkhat)	182
155	Rapid Overton	(Mr W Donoghue)	182
156	Goal Diggers	(N Emmerston)	182
157	The Doug Hutchies	(D Summerhill)	182
158	Golden Stars	(A Overton)	182
159	Newman	(C Stacey)	182
160	Scot Ltd	(M Stacey)	182
161	Cremwood FC	(A Marshall)	182
162	Supervillains	(P Gony)	182
163	The Cutting Edge	(R Greenhalgh)	182
164	The McMenemys	(R Hassell)	182
165	S M Balance 5	(Mr A Weston)	182
166	Map 6	(J Broadsmith)	182
167	Bohnen Forest	(J Cook)	182
168	Esther My Lovely	(M Priestley)	182
169	Lively Ludlows	(S Burn)	182
170	High Oak Rovers	(Mr P Johnson)	182
171	Martons Marauders	(M Hester)	182
172	No Fear Ltd	(A Koutsoudis)	182
173	Blackpears	(S Gardner)	182
174	Sky Interactive	(O Stedman)	182

	182	179	Betty Reserves
	182	179	Robbo's Army
	182	179	Hovels Heroes
	182	179	Maggie's Marvels
	182	179	AC Tora Tora
	182	179	The Black Knights
	181	179	The Masked Toppies
	181	179	Willy Denny's Devils
	181	179	NEP Wanderers
	181	179	Bernet Buy Cole
	181	179	Morrison Mashers
	181	179	Del's Devils 2nd XI
	181	179	Let's Ltd
	181	179	UPS United
	181	197	Rusell Rabbits
	181	197	Stevens Lions 2
	181	197	Walsbury AFC
	181	197	Lamorias
	181	197	Nerd's Nohoppers
	181	197	Ramsey Rovers
	181	197	Gohills Gods 34
	181	197	Adams Allstars
	181	197	Partizan Boogard I
	181	197	Khamashin Shifas
	180	197	Brookborough
	180	197	Gohills Softbeard
	180	197	Al Jox Fox
	180	197	The Masky Boys
	180	197	Gohills Gods 35
	180	197	Good-Time Boys
	180	197	Mercer's Men
	180	197	Team Fullstone
	180	197	Moraybays United
	180	197	Castle Street Boot E
	180	197	Fantasy Formbook
	180	197	Chase Boys
	180	197	Darwish Ltd
	180	197	Robb Rovers
	180	197	Murdoch City
	180	197	Dissen Dynamo
	180	223	Dustys All Stars
	180	223	Only Can Save
	180	223	The French Do
	180	223	Brad CR
	180	223	Mercury
	179	223	Royals Blues
	179	223	Andy's Elton
	179	223	The Hair Ear Band
	179	223	Jetfoot For Shaw
	179	223	Smith Mast Score
	179	223	Dyfnwy Mail
	179	223	Darlo Cyclos
	179	223	Jacobbooks FC
	179	223	Idms Team
	179	223	Elm Park Aphids
	179	223	The Bacon Slicers
	179	223	Rory's Rovers
	179	223	Tip Mast Score
	179	242	West XI
	179	242	The Losing Battle
	179	242	Emmaloex Eleven
	179	242	Fantasy FC
	179	242	Unitary Lads
	179	242	Geordie Athletics
	179	242	Buited Boroos
	178	242	Pont Parnas II
	178	242	Goats Please

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	T. Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	-24
10102	R. Morris	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P. Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	-1
10301	M. Croxall	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-3	0
10302	T. Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10401	D. James	Liverpool	3.50	0	+1
10402	A. Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J. Laidlaw	Leeds United	3.00	+5	+2
10502	M. Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	0
10601	P. Snelson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
10602	M. Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10803	S. Hildop	Newcastle United	3.00	+1	+8
10701	T. Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-15
10702	E. Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A. Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S. Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J. Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-1	-7
10901	H. Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0
10902	N. Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
10903	P. Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	-9	-25
11001	B. Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D. Beasant	Southampton	0.75	0	-11
11101	D. Kharin	Chelsea	2.50	-7	+7
11102	K. Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	0
11201	D. Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+8	+24
11202	V. Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K. Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+5	-2
11302	C. Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
11401	L. Madsen	West Ham United	2.50	+4	-7
11402	L. Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
11501	M. Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-7
11502	J. Keville	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S. Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11602	J. Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11803	A. Fylan	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-18
11701	A. Cotter	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	A. Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E. Immet	Manchester City	2.00	+5	-12
11801	M. Boenich	Aston Villa	2.50	-3	-10
11802	N. Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0
11901	A. Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G. Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+6	+23
12001	K. Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5	-34
12002	A. Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0



David Seaman finds that saving penalties for Arsenal can be easier than saving money in ITF team selection

Seaman's saving grace

David Seaman, the
England goalkeeper,
makes his ITF selection

I AM quite good at spending money but on the whole I'd rather save it, so having spent £10 million on Alan Shearer I had to build my team around him because he cost so much.

Really, I picked the team at random, but having to keep within the budget took time. I thought that Interactive Team Football (ITF) sounded like a bit of fun but when I started to form the team it took ages — I spent all night trying to get it right.

Bruce Rioch was an enforced selection and although I'm happy with the points he has brought me I'm not so happy about his price. He's one of the most expensive managers but I had to buy him. Still, not being able to pick any players from Arsenal is probably a good thing. Not only would I have taken some stick from the rest of the lads but I would have ended up spending all my money on Ian Wright to go alongside Shearer up front. With that sort of spending I would have had nothing left for the rest of the squad.

Once I had spent a lot of money on a good striker, a good goalkeeper and a strong defence, I just had to fill in the rest of the team as I could afford it. John Lukic has actually lost me points but then you have to do very well to earn points as a goalie.

It's a funny job being in goal, you have to be born a goalie. When things go wrong,

it's your fault and when things go right no one notices. Certainly we're undervalued and underpriced in the team, although I have noticed that I'm one of the most expensive goalies in the ITF. It's a good job Arsenal have made a comparatively good start to the season — because we are doing well I must be earning points for somebody.

As for the midfield, they have not done too well for me. Michael Thomas, Julian Darity and Kingsley Black haven't scored a point. Only Lee Clark from Newcastle

has actually brought in any points at all, but then it's difficult to find goal-scoring midfielders, especially when you have spent all your money elsewhere. And it is goals that earn the points. But it's hardly surprising Clark has done well when you look at Newcastle and the fantastic manner in which they have started this season. It's a tough task but we at Arsenal must keep chasing them.

I don't think I'm going to get involved in the transfer market. I'm sure my side will begin to pick up as the season goes on and having selected them, why transfer them? I don't follow their performance every game, but being a Leeds fan I always keep an eye on how Lukic and Tony Dorigo are doing, so I keep in touch with my ITF team that way.

I did have one funny moment with the ITF though. It was when we played Nottingham Forest in the first or second game at home and I ran out onto the pitch with Stuart Pearce. As we went out he said: "I feel I've got a goal in me today" and I said: "I hope so, I've picked you in my ITF team". He didn't really have an answer to that.

Not that I have a problem with balancing the fortunes of my ITF team and the job I have to do as the Arsenal goalkeeper — you have to want to win and the Arsenal must always come first. But I have every confidence in my ITF team.

SEAMAN'S TEAM			
Goalkeeper: J. Lukic (Leeds)	£3m		
Full backs: T. Dorigo (Leeds)	£2.5m		
S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest)	£1.5m		
Centre backs: U. Eke (Aston Villa)	£2.5m		
F. Sinclair (Chelsea)	£2m		
M. Thomas (Liverpool)	£1m		
Middlefield: K. Black (Nottingham Forest)	£1.5m		
J. Darity (Coventry)	£0.75m		
L. Clark (Newcastle)	£1m		
Strikers: A. Shearer (Blackburn)	£10m		
G. Forster (QPR)	£1m		
Manager: B. Rioch (Arsenal)	£3.5m		

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Ch
30705	J. Candy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30801	D. Maddox	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-4
30802	S. Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-3
30803	A. McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	0
30805	K. Reedy	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	-2	-3
30901	A. Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	-5	-2
30902	A. Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-2
30903	S. Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	-4	-4
30904	C. Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-3	-10
31001	K. Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-4
31002	A. Neilson	Southampton	1.50	0	-7
31003	R. Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	-1
31101	E. Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	-3	-11
31102	J. Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F. Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-6	+5
31104	D. Lee	Chelsea	0.75	0	-1
31201	A. Adams	Arsenal	4.50	+4	+24
31202	S. Bould	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+21
31203	M. Keown	Arsenal	1.50	+4	+17
31204	A. Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
31301	D. Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+4	+6
31302	A. Pearce	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	+2
31401	S. Potts	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+1
31402	M. Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+2
31403	A. Martin	West Ham United	1.00	+4	+6
31404	S. Webster	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
31405	A. Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31501	D. Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+3
31502	D. Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+2
31503	C. Short	Everton	2.50	0	-4
31601	D. Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-2
31602	D. Busst	Coventry City	0.75	0	-2
31604	B. Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-7
31701	K. Curle	Manchester City	1.50	+4	-2
31702	A. Kermaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1
31703	M. Vonk	Manchester City	1.00	0	-2
31704	K. Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+4	-2
31801	U. Eke	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+15
31802	P. McGloth	Aston Villa	1.50	-2	-8
31901	N. Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+20
31902	S. Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+27
31903	P. Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-1
31904	D. Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+19
32001	A. Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	-4
32002	C. Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	-13
32003	S. Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0
32004	G. Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-2
32005	G. Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Ch
40102	D. Batty	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+1	+9
40103	J. Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	0
40104	T. Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+9
40105	S. Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+1	+9
40107	P. Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
40109	M. Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
40110	L. Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+10
40201	R. Gibbs	Manchester United	5.50	+3	+14
40202	L. Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+10
40203	L. Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+1	+13
40205	N. Butt	Manchester United	2.00	0	+12
40206	D. Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	0	+15
40207	S. Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40302	C. Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+6
40303	J. Woon	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+15
40304	S. Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+1	+16
40305	D. Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+6
40306	S. Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+4
40307	K. Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
40401	S. McLennan	Liverpool	6.50	+1	+14
40402	J. Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	0	+13

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Ch
40403	J. Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	0	+18
40404	P. Stewart	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40405	M. Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40406	M. Walters	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40407	N. Clough	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40408	M. Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	0
40410	J. Molby	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40411	J. McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0	+3
40501	G. McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+2	+13
40502	G. Speed	Leeds United	4.00	0	+16
40503	R. Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+6
40504	D. White	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5
40505	L. Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0	0
40506	M. Tindler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40601	R. Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	+1	+19
40602	G. Ginoia	Newcastle United	4.50	+1	+14
40604	K. Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	+1	+18
40605	L. Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	+3	+16
40606	S. Sellers	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+2
40607	S. Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	0	0
40608	C. Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R. Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40701	D. Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D. Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+7
40703	J. Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+4
40704	D. Caskey	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
40705	G. McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+5
40706	I. Dumitrescu	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0	+3
40707	R. Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	0	+4
40801	S. Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+1	+12
40802	I. Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+9
40803	A. Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+12
40804	S. Hodges	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40805	T. Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+1	+12
40807	S. Osborne	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+6
40808	G. Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40901	V. Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+2	+5
40902	R. Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+17
40903	M. Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+4	+9
40904	L. Leventhagen	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+10
40905	P. Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
41001	J. Magilton	Southampton	3.00	0	+12
41002	N. Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+13
41003	N. Heaney	Southampton	2.50	0	-1
41005	D. Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0	+2
41006	T. Widdington	Southampton	1.00	0	+12
41101	D. Wise	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+17
41102	R. Gullit	Chelsea	4.00	+1	+16
41103	G. Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+12
41104	D. Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
41105	N. Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+4
41106	C. Burley	Chelsea	1.00	+1	+8
41108	E. Newton	Chelsea	0.75	+1	+7
41201	G. Helder	Arsenal	4.00	+2	+7
41202	P. Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+4	+20
41204	R. Parfou	Arsenal	2.00	+2	+10
41205	E. McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D. Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41207	J. Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0	+3
41208	D. Platt	Arsenal	4.50	0	+10
41301	J. Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+7
41302	A. Sinton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+2	+3
41303	C. Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	+9
41304	G. Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+7
41305	K. Inghesson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+2
41306	R. Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M. Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	+1	+1
41308	L. Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41309	M. Pemberton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+15
41401	J. Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	+3	+8
41402	D. Hutchison	West Ham United	5.00	0	+10
41403	M. Allen	West Ham United	2.00	0	+4
41405	I. Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+10
41406	D. Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pts
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	+2	+9
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+3
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	0	+8
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	0
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	+12	0
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	0	+7
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+3
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0	+13
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+2
41509	A Kancheiskis	Everton	6.00	0	+5
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+1
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+8
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+1
41605	L Jenkinson	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
41606	J Darby	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1+12	0
41608	Isaacs	Coventry City	3.00	0	+7
41609	C Battista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1+12	0
41701	G Flittorff	Manchester City	2.50	+1	+4
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+2	+7
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+2
41706	J Summerbee	Manchester City	2.00	+2	+6
41707	G Kinkadee	Manchester City	1.50	+2+11	0
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+1+10	0
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+17
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	+1+14	0
41804	G Fenton	Aston Villa	0.75	0	0
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1+18	0
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4+23	0
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+0
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	0
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1+12	0
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+2+14	0
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+3
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+10
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+3	+4
42005	M Patterson	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	+1	+8
42006	N McDonald	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	0
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

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at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9KN, telephone 0171-762 5000, and at Kingsley Park
Industrial Estate, Killing Road, Preston, Merseyside L3 9HT, telephone 01594 62000.